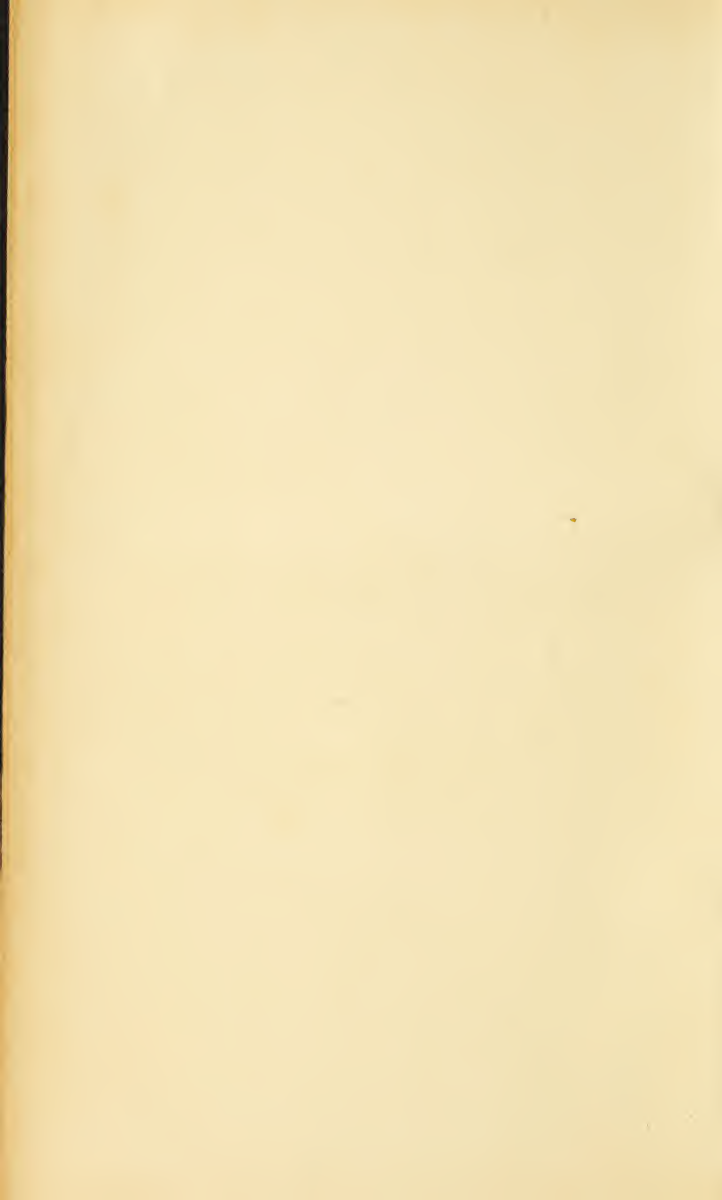




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THE

BIOGRAPHY

OF THE PRINCIPAL

AMERICAN

Military and Naval Heroes;

COMPREHENDING

Details of their Achievements

DURING THE

Revolutionary and Late Wars.

Interspersed with authentic Anecdotes not found in any other work.



EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS.



BY THOMAS WILSON,

.. OF PHILADELPHIA.

Assisted by several Literary Gentlemen, in different parts of the United States; and carefully collected from the most authentic sources.



SPEAK OF MAN AS HE IS, IN THE LANGUAGE OF TRUTH, AND NOT OF ADULATION.



IN TWO VOLUMES.



VOL. II.



NEW-YORK:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN LOW,
NO. 139 CHERRY-STREET.

.....

1819.

Marmaduke Johnson

District of New-York, ss.

We it remembered, that on the sixth day of October, in the forty first year of the Independence of the United States of America, John Low, of the said district, hath deposited in this office, the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor in the words following, to wit :

"The Biography of the principal American Military and Naval Heroes ; comprehending details of their achievements during the Revolutionary and Late Wars. Interspersed with authentic Anecdotes not found in any other work. Embellished with Portraits. By Thomas Wilson, of Philadelphia. Assisted by several Literary Gentlemen, in different parts of the United States ; and carefully collected from the most authentic sources. Speak of Man as he is, in the language of truth and not of adulation. In two Volumes."

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Theron RUDD,

Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

To speak of living characters “in the language of truth, and not of adulation,” is a most unwelcome but the imperious duty of the biographer ; unwelcome, because it is not garnished with the sweets of flattery ; imperious, because the Historic Muse forbids the use of false-colouring.

TRUTH is the sturdy mastiff which guards the portals of the Historic Muse. In whatever way the votaries of a *false ambition* may have attempted to elude his vigilance, he is certain to let them arrive at the destined goal, simply garbed in their own habiliments, regardless of the mantle of patriotism or infamy, attempted to be thrown over them, by themselves, their friends, or their foes, in defiance of

their own actions. To Truth, the *saccharine juice* of the former, and the *tart* of the latter, are equally unpalatable.

Chance and circumstances have sometimes thrown men into stations to which, by their religion, education, and habits, it would seem nature never intended them. When hurled into the current, Fortune, regardless of their real merits, oft appears to roll her favours upon them in a ceaseless stream. Like birds in borrowed plumage, they bask in the sunshine of power, robed in others' fame.

When a man *worms* himself into public notice, his motives are quickly scanned: He flutters his ephemeral day like the gaudy butterfly, and the winter of Time displays nought but the corruptions of his carcase. His actions are only appreciated from his motives, and his good or ill fame is proportionate to their favourable or successful results.

The attainment of a theoretic and practical knowledge of the military art, sufficient for the higher grades of command, with some men, is the employment of years ; with others, apparently, the business of a day. Solid worth flows from experience, talents, integrity, and capacity. Animal courage alone, is but a small constituent in the formation of a great military character.

These remarks are of general, not individual import, inasmuch as their bearings are intended alone for the meridian of those who owe their elevation to their being the mere heralds of great events ; or who fawn and flatter those to whom a nation has confided the direction of its most important concerns.

BIOGRAPHY

OF

American Military and Naval Heroes.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL

ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE.

THE fortuitous events of moments, like the throes of a volcano, sometimes belch forth *heroes*, while others become so from their birth, habits and education. The family of General Pike, were among the first settlers of New-Jersey, and tradition preserves the name, in remote ancestry, of Captain John Pike, as a distinguished, gallant and brave soldier in defence of that colony, in the early Indian wars to which it was subjected.

Zebulon M. Pike was born at a place called Alamatunk, now by corruption Lamberton,* in New-Jersey. His father, whose name was Zebulon, was an officer in the army of the United States, at the time of his son's birth, and never rose higher than the rank of a Major. After having received a common school education, in early youth, Zebulon Montgomery entered as a cadet into a company then under his father's command, in which he served some time on the U. S. western

.....
* Another Biographer makes him a native of Woodbridge.

frontiers. Thus it may be justly said, that he had been almost nurtured a soldier from his cradle. His deficiency of early education was subsequently supplied by a close and ardent study—hence he became a proficient in the French, and, afterwards, in the Spanish language, and was skilled in the mathematical and astronomical sciences, the fruits of industrious application.

A short lapse of time intervened, when the commission of ensign, and afterwards lieutenant in the 1st regiment of the U. S. Infantry, was given him. Spurning idleness in the calm of peace, he whiled away his time in the acquisition of useful knowledge. But he panted for glory and martial renown. He seemed to be endued with a spirit not ill-suited to the chivalric notions of the middle ages. Notwithstanding the multifarious objects which attracted his attention in the pursuit of knowledge, Cupid seems to have inflicted a wound in his bosom, for Hymen spread his net, and our hero was caught in the enticing snare.

In March 1801, he married a Miss Clarissa Brown, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who bore him several children, only one of whom, a daughter, survives.

Among other habits of mental discipline, Pike had a practice of inserting upon the blank pages of some favourite volume, such striking maxims of morality, or sentiments of honour, as occurred in his reading, or were suggested by his own reflections. He used a small edition of Dodsley's "Economy of Human Life," for this purpose. Soon after his marriage, he presented this volume to his wife, who still preserves it as one of the most precious memorials of her husband's virtues. An extract from one of the manuscript pages of this volume was published in a periodical work soon after his death. It was written as a conti-

uation of the article "Sincerity," and is strongly characteristic of the author.

"Should my country call for the sacrifice of that life which has been devoted to her service from early youth, most willingly shall she receive it. The sod which covers the brave shall be moistened by the tears of love and friendship; but if I fall far from my friends, and from you, my Clara, remember that 'the choicest tears which are ever shed, are those which bedew the unburied head of a soldier,' and when these lines shall meet the eye of our young ——— let the pages of this little book be impressed on his mind as the gift of a father who had nothing to bequeath but his honour, and let these maxims be ever present to his mind as he rises from youth to manhood:

" 1. Preserve your honour free from blemish.

" 2. Be always ready to die for your country.

"Z. M. Pike.

"Kaskaskias, Indiana Territory."

On the old peace of establishment of our army, then composed only of a few regiments, and employed altogether in garrisoning a few frontier posts, promotion was slow, and the field of action limited and obscure. For several years, Lieutenant Pike panted in vain for an opportunity of gratifying that "all-ruling passion," which, to use his own words, "swayed him irresistibly to the profession of arms, and the pursuits of military glory."

At length, in 1805, a new career of honourable distinction was opened to this active and aspiring youth. Soon after the purchase of Louisiana, the government of the United States determined upon taking measures to explore their new territory, and that immense tract of wilderness included within its limits. Besides ascertaining its

geographical boundaries, it was wished to acquire some knowledge of its soil and natural productions, of the course of its rivers, and their fitness for the purposes of navigation and other uses of civilized life, and also to gain particular information of the numbers, character, and power of the tribes of Indians who inhabited this territory, and their several dispositions towards the United States. With these views, while Captains Lewis and Clarke were sent to explore the unknown sources of the Missouri, Pike was despatched on a similar expedition for the purpose of tracing the Mississippi to its head.

On the 9th of August, 1805, Pike accordingly embarked at St. Louis, and proceeded up the Mississippi, with twenty men, in a stout boat, provisioned for four months, but they were soon obliged to leave their boats, and proceed on their journey by land, or in canoes, which they built, and carried with them on their march, after leaving their large boat. Pike's own journal has been for some time before the public, and affords a much more satisfactory narrative of the expedition than the narrow limits of a work of this kind can allow. For eight months and twenty days this adventurous soldier and his faithful band were almost continually exposed to hardship and peril, depending for provisions upon the precarious fortunes of the chase, enduring the most piercing cold, and cheerfully submitting to the most constant and harassing toils. They were sometimes for days together without food, and they frequently slept without cover on the bare earth, or the snow, during the bitterest inclemency of a northern winter. During this voyage, Pike had no intelligent companion upon which he could rely for any sort of advice or aid, and he literally performed the duties of astronomer, surveyor,

commanding officer, clerk, spy, guide, and hunter, frequently preceding the party for many miles, in order to reconnoitre, or rambling for whole days in search of deer or other game for provision; and then returning to his men in the evening hungry and fatigued, he would sit down in the open air to copy by the light of a fire, the notes of his journey, and to plot out the courses of the next day.

His conduct towards the Indians was marked with equal good sense, firmness and humanity; he every where, without violence or fraud, induced them to submit to the government of the United States, and he made use of the authority of his country to put an end to a savage warfare which had for many years been carried on with the utmost cruelty and rancour between the Sioux and the Chippeways, two of the most powerful nations of aborigines remaining on the North American continent. He also every where enforced with effect the laws of the United States against supplying the savages with spiritous liquors. Thus, while he wrested their tomahawks from their hands, and compelled them to bury the hatchet, he defended them from their own vices, and in the true spirit of humanity and honour, rejected with disdain that cruel and dastardly policy which seeks the security of the civilized man in the debasement of the savage.

In addition to the other objects of Pike's mission, as specifically detailed in his instructions, he conceived that his duty as a soldier required of him an investigation of the views and conduct of the British traders, within the limits of our jurisdiction, and an inquiry into the exact limits of the territories of the United States and Great Britain. This duty he performed, says the author of a former sketch of his biography, with the boldness of

a soldier and the politeness of a gentleman; he might have justly added, with the disinterestedness of a man of honour, and the ability and discretion of an enlightened politician. He found that the N. W. Company, by extending their establishments and commerce far within the bounds of the United States, and even into the very centre of Louisiana, were thus enabled to introduce their goods without duty or license into our territories, to the very great injury of the revenue, as well as to the complete exclusion of our own countrymen from all competition in this trade. He perceived, beside, that these establishments were made subservient to the purposes of obtaining an influence over the savages, dangerous to the peace, and injurious to the honour and character of our government; and he thought it evident that in case of a rupture between the two powers, all these posts would be used as rallying points for the enemy, and as places of deposit for arms to be distributed to the Indians, to the infinite annoyance, if not total ruin, of all the adjoining territories.

An opportunity was now presented to him of enriching himself for life, by merely using the power invested in him by law, and seizing upon the immense property of the company which he found illegally introduced within our territory. But having been hospitably received at one of their principal posts, his high sense of honour would not permit him to requite their hospitality by a rigorous execution of the laws. It is probable, too, that he thought so violent a measure might lead to collisions between the two governments, without tending to produce any permanent beneficial effect, and he cheerfully sacrificed all views of personal interest, to what he conceived to be the true interest and honour of his country. By

means of reprimands and threats to the inferior traders, and a frank and spirited remonstrance to the director of the Fond du Lac department, he succeeded in procuring a stipulation, that in future no attempts should be made to influence any Indian on political affairs, or any subjects foreign to trade, and that measures should be immediately taken to prevent the display of the British flag, or any other mark of power, within our dominion; together with a promise that such representations should be immediately made to the company, and such an arrangement effected with regard to duties, as would hereafter set that question at rest.

His conduct with regard to this subject was, at the time, viewed with cold approbation, but the events of the present war have borne ample testimony to his sagacity and foresight.

Within two months after his return from this expedition, Pike was selected by General Wilkinson for a second perilous journey of hardship and adventure. The principal purpose of this expedition was, like that of the former, to explore the interior of Louisiana. He was directed to embark at St. Louis with the Osage captives, (about forty in number,) who had been rescued from their enemies, the Potowatomies, by the interference of our government, and to transport them to the principal village of their nation; and he was instructed to take this opportunity to bring about interviews between the different savage nations, and to endeavour to assuage animosities, and establish a permanent peace among them. He was, after accomplishing these objects, to continue his route into the interior, and to explore the Mississippi and its tributary streams, especially the Arkanaw and Red River, and thus to acquire such geographical information as might

enable government to enter into definitive arrangements for a boundary line between our newly acquired territory, and North Mexico.

In the course of this second journey, our adventurous soldier, after leaving the Osage village, encountered hardships, in comparison of which the severities of his former journey seemed to him ease and luxury.

Winter overtook the party unprovided with any clothing fit to protect them from cold and storms. Their horses died, and for weeks they were obliged to explore their way, on foot, through the wilderness, carrying packs of sixty or seventy pounds weight, besides their arms, exposed to the bitterest severity of the cold, relying solely on the produce of the chase for subsistence, and often for two or three days altogether without food. This part of his journal contains a narrative of a series of sufferings sufficient to make the "superfluous and lust-dieted" son of luxury shudder at the bare recital. Several of the men had their feet frozen, and all, except Pike and one other, were in some degree injured by the intensity of the cold. He thus relates the history of two of these dreary days :

"18th *January, Sunday*.—The doctor and myself, who formerly were untouched by the frost, went out to hunt something to preserve existence; near evening we wounded a buffalo with three balls, but had the mortification to see him run off notwithstanding. We concluded it was useless to go home to add to the general gloom, and went amongst some rocks, where we encamped, and sat up all night; from the intense cold it was impossible to sleep. Hungry and without cover.

"19th *January, Monday*.—We again took the field, and after crawling about one mile in the snow, got near enough to shoot eight times among

a gang of buffaloes, and could plainly perceive two or three to be badly wounded, but by accident they took the wind of us, and, to our great mortification all were able to run off. By this time I had become extremely weak and faint, it being the fourth day since we had received sustenance, all of which we were marching hard, and the last night had scarcely closed our eyes to sleep. We were inclining our course to a point of woods, determined to remain absent and die by ourselves, rather than return to our camp and behold the misery of our poor lads, when we discovered a gang of buffaloes coming along at some distance. With great exertions, I made out to run and place myself behind some cedars, and by the greatest good luck the first shot stopped one, which we killed in three more shots, and by the dusk had cut each of us a heavy load, with which we determined immediately to proceed to the camp, in order to relieve the anxiety of our men, and carry the poor fellows some food. We arrived there about twelve o'clock, and when I threw my load down, it was with difficulty I prevented myself from falling; I was attacked with a giddiness of the head, which lasted for some minutes. On the countenances of the men was not a frown, nor a desponding eye, but all seemed happy to hail their officer and companions, yet not a mouthful had they eat for four days. On demanding what were their thoughts, the serjeant replied, the most robust had determined to set out in search of us on the morrow, and not return unless they found us or had killed something to preserve the lives of their starving companions."

In the course of this long, toilsome, and perilous march, Pike displayed a degree of personal heroism and hardihood, united with a prudence and sagacity which, had they been exerted on some

wider theatre of action would have done honour to the most renowned general. The reader, may, perhaps, smile at this remark, as one of the wild exaggerations of a biographer anxious to dignify the character of this hero, but the truth is, that great men owe much of their splendour to external circumstances, and if Hannibal had made his famous march across the Alps at the head of a company of foot, instead of an army, his name, if it had reached us, would have come down to posterity with much less dignity than that of our hardy countryman. There are passages in Pike's journal of his second expedition, which, had they been found, with proper alterations of place and circumstance, related by Plutarch or Livy of one of their heroes, would have been cited by every school boy as examples of military and heroic virtue. Take, for instance, the account of Pike's firm and prudent conduct in repressing the first symptoms of discontent in his little band, and his address upon this occasion to the mutineer, and they will be found to need but little of the usual embellishments of an eloquent historian, to be made worthy of Hannibal himself.

"*24th January, Saturday.*—We sallied out in the morning, and shortly after perceived our little band, marching through the snow, (about two and a half feet deep,) silent, and with downcast countenances. We joined them, and learnt that they, finding the snow to fall so thickly that it was impossible to proceed, had encamped about one o'clock the preceding day. As I found all the buffaloes had quitted the plains, I determined to attempt the traverse of the mountain, in which we persevered until the snow became so deep it was impossible to proceed, when I again turned my face to the plain, and for the first time in the voyage found myself discouraged, and for the first

time I heard a man express himself in a seditious manner ; he exclaimed, ‘ that it was more than human nature could bear, to march three days without sustenance, through snows three feet deep, and carry burdens only fit for horses,’ &c. &c.

“ As I knew very well the fidelity and attachment of the majority of the men, and even of this poor fellow, and that it was in my power to chastise him when I thought proper, I passed it by for the moment, determined to notice it at a more auspicious time. We dragged our weary and emaciated limbs along until about ten o’clock. The doctor and myself, who were in advance, discovered some buffaloes on the plain, when we left our loads and orders written on the snow, to proceed to the nearest woods to encamp. We went in pursuit of the buffaloes, which were on the move.

“ The doctor, who was then less reduced than myself, ran and got behind a hill, and shot one down, which stopped the remainder. We crawled up to the dead one, and shot from him as many as twelve or fourteen times among the gang, when they removed out of sight. We then proceeded to cut up the one we had shot, and after procuring each of us a load of the meat, we marched for the camp, the smoke of which was in view. We arrived at the camp to the great joy of our brave lads, who immediately feasted sumptuously. After our repast, I sent for the lad who had presumed to speak discontentedly in the course of the day, and addressed him to the following effect : ‘ Brown, you this day presumed to make use of language which was seditious and mutinous ; I then passed it over, pitying your situation, and attributing it to your distress, rather than to your inclination to sow discontent amongst the party. Had I reserved provisions for ourselves, whilst you were starving ; had we been marching along

light and at our ease, whilst you were weighed down with your burden, then you would have had some pretext for your observations; but when we were equally hungry, weary, emaciated, and charged with burden, which I believe my natural strength is less able to bear than any man's in the party; when we were almost foremost in breaking the road, reconnoitering, and the fatigues of the chase, it was the height of ingratitude in you to let an expression escape which was indicative of discontent; your ready compliance and firm perseverance I had reason to expect, as the leader of men, and my companions in miseries and dangers.—But your duty as a soldier demanded your obedience to your officer, and a prohibition of such language, which, for this time, I will pardon, but assure you, should it ever be repeated, I will revenge your ingratitude and punish your disobedience by instant *death*. I take this opportunity, likewise, to assure you, soldiers, of my thanks for the obedience, perseverance, and ready contempt of every danger which you have generally evinced; I assure you, nothing shall be wanting on my part to procure you the rewards of our government and gratitude of your countrymen.”

“ They all appeared very much affected, and retired with assurances of perseverance in duty.”

Amidst these distresses, after a three months' winter's march, they explored their way to what they supposed to be the Red River. Here they were met by a party of Spanish cavalry, by whom Pike was informed, to his great astonishment, that they were not on the Red River, but on the Rio del Norte, and in the Spanish territory. All opposition to this force would have been idle, and he reluctantly submitted to accompany the Spaniards to Sante Fe, to appear before the governor. Though, to his great mortification, his

expedition was thus broken off, all hardship was now at an end. He was treated on the road with great respect and hospitality, though watched and guarded with much jealousy; but he still insisted on wearing his sword, and that his men should retain their arms. Indeed, it was his resolution, had he or any of his people been ill used, to surprise the guard, carry off their horses, and make the best of their way to Apaches.

When he arrived at Santa Fe, his whole dress was a blanket coat, blue trowsers, moccasins, and a scarlet cloth cap lined with a fox skin; his men were in leather coats, with leggings, &c. and had not a hat in the whole party. But he appeared before the governor with his usual spirit, and insisted on being treated with the respect due to an American officer. From Santa Fe he was sent to the capital of the province of Biscay, to be examined by the Commandant-general, where he was well received and entertained for some time, after which he was sent on his way home, under the escort of a strong party of horse. He arrived with his little band at Natchitoches, on the 1st of July, 1807.

The most vexatious circumstance attending this unexpected sequel to his expedition was the seizure of all his papers, except his private journal, by the Spanish government. He had been fitted out with a complete set of mathematical and astronomical instruments, and had made frequent and accurate observations. He had thus ascertained the geographical situation of the most important points with much precision, and had collected materials for an accurate map of a great part of the country which he traversed. The seizure of these papers is a real loss to the cause of science. It is, however, in perfect conformity to that narrow and purblind policy, which the old Spanish

government uniformly manifested in the administration of its colonies.

Pike, upon his return, received the thanks of the government ; a committee of the House of Representatives expressed their high sense of his "zeal, perseverance, and intelligence," and the administration, much to its honour, bestowed upon him a more solid testimony of approbation, by a rapid promotion in the army. He was immediately appointed Captain, shortly after a Major, and, upon the further enlargement of the army, in 1810, a Colonel of Infantry.

During the intervals of his military duties, he prepared for the press a narrative of his two expeditions, accompanied by several valuable original maps and charts. This was published in Svo. in 1810. The work is rather overloaded with unnecessary detail, and the language is careless and often inaccurate ; the last fault is, however, in a great measure to be attributed to several disadvantageous circumstances under which the work went to press, while the author was at a distance, engaged in public service. Still it is sufficiently evident that the volume is not the composition of a scholar. But it bears the strongest marks of an acute, active, busy mind, unaccustomed to scientific arrangement or speculation, but filled with a variety of knowledge, all of a useful, practical kind. Though entirely unacquainted with botany, zoology, and mineralogy, as sciences, Pike had a liberal curiosity, which taught him to look upon every object with the eye of an observer, and to despise no sort of knowledge, though he might not himself perceive its immediate utility. Above all, the narrative has that unstudied air of truth which is so apt to evaporate away in the process of the book-making traveller ; it retains

all the clearness and freshness of first impressions, and we are never for a moment left in doubt, whether or no the writer and the traveller are the same person.

Immediately after the declaration of war, Pike was stationed with his regiment upon the northern frontier, and upon the commencement of the campaign of 1813, was appointed a Brigadier-General.

There was a tincture of enthusiasm in Pike's character which communicated itself to his whole conduct; in whatsoever pursuit he engaged, he entered upon it with his whole soul. But the profession of arms had been always his favourite study—his "life's employment, and his leisure's charm." Having served through every gradation of rank, almost from a private, up to a general, and very often employed in separate and independent commands, he was intimately acquainted with all the minutæ of discipline. The veteran of a peace establishment is too apt, from the want of greater objects, to narrow his mind down to the little details of a military life, until, at length, every trifle swells up into ideal importance, and the cut of a coat or the tying of a neckcloth, seems big with the fate of nations. Pike was extremely attentive to all the particulars, even to the most minute points, of discipline and dress, yet he gave them their due importance, and no more. He did not wish to degrade the soldier into a mere living machine, and while he kept up the strictest discipline, he laboured to make his men feel that this severity arose not from caprice or ill temper, but from principle, and that it had for its sole object their own glory, their ease, their health, and safety. Careless of popularity, and negligent of the arts by which good-will is often conciliated where there

is no real esteem, by the unassuming simplicity and frankness of his manners, and the undeviating honour of his conduct, he bound to himself the hearts of all around with the strong ties of respect and affection.

Thus self-formed, and thus situated, the eyes of the army were anxiously cast towards him as the chosen champion who was to redeem their reputation from that disgrace with which it had been stained by a long series of disasters. The day for which his heart had long panted at length arrived—a bright day of glory for the hero, of gloom and sorrow to his country. He was selected for the command of the land forces in an expedition against York, the capital of Upper Canada, and on the 25th of April, sailed from Sackett's Harbour in the squadron commanded by Commodore Chauncey. The day before the expedition sailed, he wrote a letter to his father, prophetic of his fate.

“I embark to-morrow in the fleet at Sackett's Harbour, at the head of a column of 1,500 choice troops, on a secret expedition. If success attends my steps, honour and glory await my name; if defeat, still shall it be said that we died like brave men, and conferred honour, even in death, on the American name.

“Should I be the happy mortal destined to turn the scale of war, will you not rejoice, O my father? May heaven be propitious, and smile on the cause of my country! But if we are destined to fall, may my fall be like Wolfe's—to sleep in the arms of victory.”

On the 27th of April, General Pike arrived at York, with about seventeen hundred chosen men, and immediately prepared to land. The spot

which was selected for landing, was the site of an old French fort called Torento, of which scarcely any vestiges now remain. The plan of attack was formed by General Pike himself, and clearly and minutely detailed in his general orders, which were directed to be read at the head of every corps ; every field officer was also directed to carry a copy of them, in order that he might at any moment refer to them, and give explanations to his subordinates. Every thing was arranged, and every probable exigency provided for, with admirable method and precision.

There is one paragraph of these orders which is deeply stamped with that unity of character so visible throughout all his actions, and which is, in truth, one of the strongest marks of a powerful and original mind.

“No man will load until ordered, except the light troops in front, until within a short distance of the enemy, and then charge bayonets ; thus letting the enemy see that we can meet them with their own weapons. Any man firing or quitting his post without orders must be put to instant death, as an example may be necessary. Platoon officers will pay the greatest attention to the coolness and aim of their men in the fire ; their regularity and dressing in the charge. The field officers will watch over the conduct of the whole. Courage and bravery in the field do not more distinguish the soldier than humanity after victory ; and whatever examples the savage allies of our enemies may have given us, the General confidently hopes, that the blood of an unresisting or yielding enemy will never stain the weapons of the soldiers of his column. Property must be held sacred ; and any soldier who shall so far neglect the

honour of his profession as to be guilty of plundering the inhabitants, shall, if convicted, be punished with death. But the commanding General assures the troops, that should they capture a large quantity of public stores, he will use his best endeavours to procure them a reward from his government."

As soon as the debarkation commenced, a body of British Grenadiers was paraded on the shore, and the Glengary Fencibles, a local force which had been disciplined with great care, and has repeatedly proved itself fully equal to any regular force, appeared at another point. Large bodies of Indians were also seen in different directions, while others filled the woods, which skirted the shore. General Sheaffe commanded in person.

Forsyth's riflemen were the first to land, which they effected under a heavy fire of musketry and rifles from the Indians and British. As soon as the fire from the shore commenced, Major Forsyth had ordered his men to rest for a few moments upon their oars, and return the fire. At this moment Pike was standing upon the deck of his ship. He saw the pause of his first division, and, impatient at the delay, exclaimed, "I can stay here no longer, come, jump into the boat;" and, springing into it, followed by his staff, was immediately rowed into the thickest of the fire.

The infantry had followed the riflemen, and formed in platoons as soon as they reached the shore. General Pike took the command of the first platoon which he reached, and ordered the whole to prepare for a charge. They mounted the bank, and the enemy, after a short conflict, broke at once, and fled in disorder towards the works. At that moment the sound of Forsyth's

bugles was heard, announcing his success at another point. Its effect upon the Indians was almost electrical; they gave a horrible yell, and fled in every direction.

The whole force, being now landed and collected, was again formed and led on by General Pike, in person, to attack the enemy's works.—They advanced through the woods, and after carrying one battery by assault, in the most gallant manner, moved on in columns towards the main work. The fire of the enemy was soon silenced by our artillery, and a flag of surrender was expected, when a terrible explosion suddenly took place from the British magazine, which had been previously prepared for this purpose. Pike, after aiding in removing a wounded man with his own hands, had sat down on the stump of a tree with a British serjeant, who had been taken, and was employed with Captain Nicholson and one of his aids in examining the prisoner. The explosion was tremendous; an immense quantity of large stones were thrown in every direction with terrible force, and scattered destruction and confusion around among our troops. The General, his aid, Captain Nicholson, and the prisoner, fell together, all, except the aid, mortally wounded. General Pike had been struck on the breast by a heavy stone. Shortly after he received the blow, he said to his wounded aid, "I am mortally wounded—write to my friend Duane, and tell him what you know of the battle, and to comfort my wife." In the same broken manner, he afterwards added several other requests relating to his private affairs.

The command devolved on Colonel Pearce, of the 16th regiment of infantry, who sent a flag to the enemy, demanding an immediate surrender at

discretion. The stipulation that private property should be respected, was the only condition asked, which was unhesitatingly granted. The British General and a part of his troops previously escaped.

The troops were instantly formed again ; as a body of them passed by their wounded general, he said, " Push on, brave fellows, and avenge your General." While the surgeons were carrying him out of the field, a tumultuous huzza was heard from our troops ; Pike turned his head with an anxious look of inquiry ; he was told by a sergeant, " The British union jack is coming down, General—the stars are going up." He heaved a heavy sigh, and smiled. He was then carried on board the commodore's ship, where he lingered for a few hours. Just before he breathed his last, the British standard was brought to him ; he made a sign to have it placed under his head, and expired without a groan.

His death was a great public misfortune.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL

LEONARD COVINGTON.

THIS gentleman was born in the State of Maryland, about the 26th. of October, 1768. His ancestry was highly respectable, and handed down to their posterity, a valuable landed estate, which devolved, at the decease of his father, on young Covington. His father's name was Levin, and the subject of this memoir was the elder of two sons. In his native State, he received an el-

egant English and mathematical, and partial Latin education. His pursuit in life, after the death of his father, was designed by his mother to be husbandry, on his patrimonial estate. But his inclination led him to a far different pursuit—the *science of war*. Defensive warfare is both just and honorable; the study of the art is equally patriotic and useful, when pursued for noble purposes; but he who makes it a profession through life, regardless of the welfare of his country, is the passive slave of tyranny. No such ignoble feelings animated Covington's breast.

He entered the army with a Cornet's commission in the cavalry, shortly after the defeat of General St. Clair, by the Indians, in 1791, near the Miami villages. In the action with the savages near Fort Recovery, his bravery was put to the severest trial. His horse was shot under him. For his conduct and bravery in the severe action on the Miami, which followed, he won the admiration and esteem of his brethren in arms, and the plaudits of his general. After General Wayne had reduced the savages to submission, Covington resigned his post in the army, and retired to his farm, occupying himself with useful pursuits of civic life. The high estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, is best tested by the various stations to which their suffrages elevated him. He was elected to a seat in the Senate of Maryland; a member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and one of the electors of President and Vice President of the U. S. Being attached firmly to republican principles, his votes and influence was not lost in the elevation of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidential chair.

In the year 1809, when the injuries which Great Britain was heaping upon his country gave rise to the Embargo laws, he accepted a Lieutenant-Colonel's commission of the regiment of dragoons, then the only one in the U. S. army. In consequence of his station in Louisiana, he formed an attachment to that newly acquired section of the United States, purchased a plantation on the banks of the Mississippi, not far from Natchez, to which he removed his family.

In the increase of the army, after the commencement of hostilities between the U. S. and Great Britain, in 1812, he was promoted from a Colonel of horse, to the rank of Brigadier-General, and commanded at the Natchez when an invasion was expected in that section of the Union. When the storm had blown over, he repaired to the Northern frontier, where his services were more immediately wanted. With his brigade, he set out with General Wilkinson in his expedition against Montreal, in the autumn of 1813, the failure of which resulted from the conduct of General Hampton, who evaded the consequences by an early resignation.

In the battle of Williamsburg, General Covington with his brigade, was ordered, in conjunction with General Swartwout, to out-flank the British if possible, and capture his artillery. Covington, while voluntarily leading a detachment of his brigade to a charge, was mortally wounded, and died in three days afterwards, and was buried with military honours at French Mills, at a place now called Mount Covington, regretted, beloved, and esteemed by the whole army.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
JOHN CHRYSTIE

WAS the third son of Major James Chrystie, of the Pennsylvania line, who held a high military reputation for his conduct during the revolutionary war, soon after the conclusion of which, the subject of this biographical sketch was born in the city of New-York.

Colonel Chrystie received his academic, and part of his collegiate education at Princeton College, (New-Jersey,) from which he was removed to Columbia College, (New-York,) where he graduated in 1805 or 6. He began then the study of the law, which he relinquished in 1808, for the commission of Lieutenant of Artillery, in the additional troops then to be raised. He was attached to Col. Simond's regiment, and was stationed at Oswego, on Lake Ontario, in the state of New-York. There, he commanded a whole winter. The spring following, he was ordered to New-Orleans. From the amiableness of his manners, and the respectability of his talents, he soon attracted the attention of General Wilkinson, who took him into his military family, as his aid. He stood high in the confidence of the principal officers of the army. In the year 1811, finding no prospect of active service, he resigned his commission and re-commenced his legal studies in his native city.

In the commencement of hostilities with Great Britain in 1812, he again entered the service, with the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 13th regiment, Colonel Schuyler, in the army of 25,000, just ordered to be raised by Congress. With

part of his regiment, he accompanied Colonel Van Rensselaer in his irruption into Canada during the summer of 1812. He commanded the regular forces of the United States, at the battle of Queenstown, the superior regular officers having been wounded in crossing the Niagara Strait. Here he sustained the conflict with the British and Indians, the greater part of the day. Wounded in the sword hand, he was compelled to surrender to an overwhelming force under General Sheaffe, after having kept him a long time in check. Several bullets had perforated his clothes. He was sent a prisoner to Montreal and thence to Quebec. During the winter following he was discharged on his parole of honour, and returned to New-York. As soon as exchanged, he returned to active service on the frontiers, just when his friend General Pike breathed his last in the arms of victory. He was soon after appointed Inspector-General of the army, and Colonel of the 23d regiment.

He accompanied Generals Dearborn and Lewis into Canada, and was taken with the bilious colic at Fort George, which terminated his existence in 1813. Short as was his military career, it was encircled with a *halo* of glory which brightens the page of American history. His remains were interred with the military honours due to his rank and character.

In disposition he was open, mild and amiable. His mind was well stored with useful knowledge. He was full of spirits, animated, and brave, and passionately fond of an active military life, panting for a niche to himself in the temple of fame. The grim tyrant of the grave seized his victim in his early start on the high road to honour and glory, and thus arrested his race for the desired goal of his ambition.

LIEUTENANT

WILLIAM HENRY ALLEN

WAS a native of Providence, Rhode-Island, and was born October 21st, 1784. His father, William Allen, a friend to the independence of his country, was appointed a Lieutenant in the revolutionary army, in the incipency of the contest, and never sheathed his sword until the freedom of his country was consummated by the peace of 1783. His mother was the sister of William Jones, Esq. one of the late governors of his native state.

Although his parents designed to give him a classical education, the bent of his genius induced them to wave their intention, and to gratify his darling passion for naval life. He consequently received a Midshipman's warrant, in May, 1800. Three months, after this, he was ordered to repair on board of the frigate *George Washington*, Captain Bainbridge, which vessel was bound to the Mediterranean, with tribute from the United States, to the Dey of Algiers. In his letters to his father, he always expressed his determination to support the American character, by his good conduct as an officer, and his demeanour as a gentleman. No peculiarity of incident chequered his voyage from the United States to Algiers. When arrived at that port, however, the scene was changed. The Dey, designing to court the favour of the Ottoman Court, ordered that this frigate should be the bearer of his *oblations*, to Constantinople. The reluctance and remonstrances of Captain Bainbridge were unavailing, and he submitted to accomplish the

demand, for the good of his country. In consequence of this determination, the George Washington sailed for, and arrived at that ancient seat of empire, Byzantium.

It was the first time that the flag of an American frigate had waved in the harbour of Constantinople. The fine order of the ship, and the excellent discipline observed among the officers and men, tended to impress very high ideas of the American character, in a quarter of the world where, before, it was unknown.

Commodore Bainbridge returned to America on the 19th of April, 1801, when a reduction of the navy ensued. Eight days after the return of the subject of the present memoir, and before that he had an opportunity of visiting his family, he was ordered on board the Philadelphia, under the command of Captain Barron, bound for the Mediterranean sea again. He entered on the service with alacrity. Nothing material transpired during the cruise. The ship returned to the United States on the 27th of June, 1802. He was now for the first time, after his entry into the service of his country, enabled to enjoy the society of his friends, and to visit his paternal abode. However, but a short repose was allowed him from the fatigues of naval service, as in October, 1802, he sailed in the frigate John Adams, commanded by Captain Rodgers, to visit, for the third time, the Mediterranean. From his letters, during this period, only two extracts, are necessary to be given :

“During our stay at Malta, we had an opportunity of visiting most of the public buildings; and amongst the rest, the superb church of St. John. The floor is laid in different coloured marble, in Mosaic, representing tomb-stones of the

different knights who distinguished themselves in fighting and in falling in defence of Christianity, against the infidels. On every side there is a latin inscription, describing his death. The walls are hung with the most superbly embroidered tapestry, representing the birth, crucifixion, and ascension of our Saviour. The death of the saints is likewise represented in the same manner, and they appear like the most beautiful paintings. The wings are divided into chapels, and here they show us crosses and saints in abundance, and the rich attire of the bishops and clergy embroidered with gold. In an inner chapel we were shown a number of relics, one of which they declared was a fragment of the cross on which our Saviour was crucified; another was the palm of the hand of St. John. The body of St. Clement was exposed, lying in state—This was a room that the French soldiers did not penetrate: it is said that they robbed this church of half a million.”

During this voyage, he was informed, by his correspondent, of a report, which afterwards proved unfounded, that a young officer was advanced over his head. This was the manly reply of a boy of seventeen: “I am too well grounded in old principles to mind such assaults now. If the government decide thus, I can say amen, with all my heart.”

Commodore Rodgers returned from his cruise in December, 1803.

Early in the year 1804, Allen was ordered on board the frigate Congress, lying at Washington, of which he was appointed sailing-master. This frigate sailed on the first of July, under the command of Captain Rodgers, for the Mediterranean. On the outward bound passage, while the ship

was lying to, in a violent gale, Allen on the fore-yard assisted the sailors in taking in a reef. Letting fall that part of the sail on which he had hold, he was precipitated headlong into the sea, to the depth of twenty feet, passing in his fall very near the anchor on the bow. Fortunately he arose near the mizen chains, and by taking hold of them, narrowly escaped inevitable death, as the ship was then drifting very fast. While cruising off the coast of Tripoli, Captain Rodgers intended, if the command should have devolved on him, in consequence of the illness of Commodore Barron, an attack on that place. He took Allen with him in the schooner to take the soundings, preparatory to the anticipated assault. They entered the harbour with muffled oars; and, after taking a sounding, and making a complete survey, they passed so near the Tripoline gun-boats, that they distinctly heard the men conversing below. They also heard the sentinels on the wall of the battery conversing together. As they were returning from the harbour, a heavy gale sprang up, and they had a narrow escape to the Nautilus, which vessel was then in the very act of leaving her position. During this cruise, which extended from 1804 to 1806, Allen thus writes to his correspondent :

“I was, while at Lisbon, witness to a very ludicrous ceremony. My ears were saluted by the hoarse chaunting of some Portuguese sailors, and I perceived about twenty in number approaching, bearing a large topsail, barefoot, with their hats in their hands, into which the multitude would, now and then, drop a six-pence, to save their souls from purgatory. On enquiry, I was informed, that it was a custom amongst them, when overtaken by a violent gale at sea, instead of trusting

to their own exertions, to offer up their prayers to their guardian saint, and to promise him the best sail in the ship, if he would condescend to protect them from the dangers of the element. The top-sail was then taken to the church, in the manner described, laid at the foot of the altar, and dedicated to the saint. It was then appraised by an old friar, who, unwilling to distress the votaries of old mother Church, accepted, as an equivalent, in money, one half of its nominal value. The saint has, by this time, become perfectly well acquainted with the value of sail cloth."

In the month of October, 1805, Captain Rodgers removed to the frigate *Constitution*, and assumed the command of the squadron, in consequence of the return of Captain Barron to the United States. Mr. Allen also removed to the *Constitution*, and was promoted to a Lieutenantcy. In a cruise off Capanea, he, in company with Commodore Rodgers, visited Mount *Ætna*. Ascending the south side of the mountain, the wind, while blowing from the north, covered that side of their bodies exposed to its violence, with frost, while the other remained perfectly free. Descending, they lost their way amongst fields of lava, but were found by the monks in the convents below. He likewise visited Mount *Vesuvius*, and the cities of *Herculaneum* and *Pompeia*. He served as third Lieutenant on board the *Constitution*, and returned in that frigate to the United States, in the year 1806.

During these several cruises to the Mediterranean, although nothing transpired on board the frigates where he was stationed, that might fairly be denominated naval glory, still a peculiarity of circumstances gave a lofty and elevated tone to the feelings of all the officers. An American

squadron in the waters of the Mediterranean, was itself a novelty. That squadron was small and it was destined to pass under the review and strict scrutiny of English ships of war, occasionally stationed in those seas, and passing the straits of Gibraltar. Personal courage, skill and correctness of discipline, could alone, ensure them respect in a company so illustrious; and to these points all their efforts were directed. They felt the high responsibility attached to their station; and knowing how important the first impression of a national character was, they acted up to that dignity which the occasion required.

After this long and fatiguing cruise, he was permitted, for a short time, to visit his friends and relations in Providence. In February, 1807, he received orders from government to join the frigate *Chesapeake*, commanded by Captain Barron, then fitting out for the straits. He remained at Philadelphia while the ship was preparing for sea, during which time he was busily employed in recruiting men for the service, and then entered as third Lieutenant.

The circumstances preceding and succeeding the attack on the *Chesapeake*, by the *Leopard*, he handsomely delineated, in a letter to a correspondent. Therein he expressed his abhorrence at the conduct of the officer having command of the *Chesapeake*, in tamely submitting to the indignities offered by the *Leopard*. His letter to the Secretary of the Navy, demanding a court of inquiry to be called upon the Captain, was signed by four Lieutenants and the sailing-master. The Secretary replied, "that their communication did them honour, and their request should be properly attended to." It is difficult to conceive of the excoriated state of Lieutenant

Allen's mind at this time. Words seemed hardly adequate to express the indignation he felt at the scenes he had witnessed. To have the flag of his nation disgraced; and to suffer the wrongs of his bleeding countrymen to go unavenged, was too humiliating for his noble spirit to brook. In a letter to his father, he says, "If I am acquitted honourably, (in other words, if Commodore Barron is condemned,) you may see me again; if not, never." "We lay here," says he, in another letter, "ready, at a moment's warning, to wipe from our flag that disgrace that has been detailed upon it by our blood. When I suffer my memory to dwell on this, I feel that I can trifle with my existence at pleasure." At length this question was put to the rest by the condemnation of Barron, on which Lieutenant Allen makes this dry remark: "How the court can reconcile some of the passages of their opinion with others, I know not, unless *cowardice* can be divided into two kinds, personal and official."

Intrepidity, however, exposes only a part of the character of Lieutenant Allen; his private affections were as warm as his public. While his mind was inflamed by a sense of indignant sensibility, he was pouring into the ear of masculine confidence the complaints of his lacerated mind; letters of the same date, to a female friend, are replete with domestic tenderness and affection. With this correspondence all is quiet and serenity; he enters into all the levity of ordinary converse, and seems as anxious to veil his heroic and indignant passions, as if this indulgence was criminal in such intercourse.

Not one of the subordinate officers was more decidedly opposed to the conduct of Commodore Barron, than Lieutenant Allen; yet such was

the uniform correctness, propriety, and delicacy, of his conduct, that he commanded the esteem of that officer's most sanguine adherents. With the officers on board the Chesapeake, he was a peculiar favourite.

During the time of the embargo, the Chesapeake, to which he was still attached, cruised off Block Island, and captured several vessels violating that law. From motives of delicacy he desired to be excused, and was excused from boarding any vessel belonging to his native state. In a letter on this subject, he says, "I knew that I should be compelled to detain such vessels for the most trivial article, and this would have wounded my feelings—Even had I met those which I could have suffered to pass, I might have laboured under unjust suspicions, when other officers might be equally just without such imputations."

Lieutenant Allen remained in the Chesapeake, in this service, until February, 1809, when he was ordered, by the government, to join the frigate United States, while lying at Washington, under the command of Commodore Decatur. The Commodore was himself absent, and the equipping of the frigate was a duty that devolved on the first Lieutenant, who was not, for the space of two months, absent from the navy yard. The ship lay a part of the time at Norfolk, and the remainder of the time was engaged in short cruises on the coast, until the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812.

Shortly after, the frigate United States sailed upon a cruise, which resulted in the capture of the Macedonian. In the action between the two vessels, Lieutenant Allen bore a conspicuous part. His share in the glorious conflict cannot be better expressed than in the words of Commodore

Decatur. "It would be unjust in me, to discriminate, where all met my fullest expectations. Permit, me however, to recommend to the particular notice of the secretary, my first Lieutenant, William H. Allen, who has served with me upwards of five years ; and to his unremitted exertions, in disciplining the crew, is to be imputed the obvious superiority of our gunnery, exhibited in this contest."

To Lieutenant Allen, was entrusted the charge of bringing the prize into port, and she safely arrived in the harbour of New-York, on the first day of January, 1813, amid the enthusiastic gratulations of our countrymen. The corporation and citizens of the city honoured him, and his commander with a splendid and superb festival ; and the Legislatures of Rhode-Island and Virginia presented him with a sword, as a testimonial of their sense, in commemoration of his gallant services.

After this, Lieutenant Allen was allowed some little respite from the naval service ; he visited his native land, and received the kind congratulations of his relatives and friends, at his paternal abode. This repose, was, however, but of short duration ; the strong and imperious calls of his country once more summoned him to active duty.

Shortly after the arrival of the Macedonian at New-York, the Argus, commanded by Captain Sinclair, returned to that port. He obtained leave to visit his friends ; and by order of Commodore Decatur, Lieutenant Allen took the command. He thoroughly repaired the vessel, and received an order from the Commodore to go in quest of a British brig of war, reported to be in the sound. The crew of the Hornet, commanded by Lieutenant Shubrick, volunteered their services. He

remained in the sound for the space of a week, without meeting with the enemy, when he received the orders of the Commodore to return.

On the death of Mr. Barlow, the American minister to the court of France, his government deemed it expedient to renew the negociation. Mr. Crawford was appointed as his successor ; and Lieutenant Allen, advanced to the rank of master commandant, was directed to command the *Argus*, and to conduct that minister to his place of destination. He accepted the appointment, and sailed with the new minister to France. He eluded the vigilance of the blockading squadron, and arrived at L'Orient in twenty-three days. He informs the secretary of the navy, in his letter bearing date June 12, 1813, that he shall immediately proceed to put in execution his orders as to the ulterior purposes of his destination."

The business so darkly hinted at, was undoubtedly, to sail in the Irish channel, and annoy the English commerce. This service was extremely perilous ; and there seemed scarcely a possibility of escape. It was a service to a man fond of glory, peculiarly invidious. Such conquests were attended with no honour ; and Captain Allen, in compliance with his orders, seemed peculiar solicitous, to make the enemy feel and confess the motives by which he was guided. The injury which he did to the British commerce, was estimated to the amount of two millions. In this depredating warfare, his conduct was marked with the highest traits of honour. The property of the passengers was sacred from hostility ; not an article of that kind would he suffer to be touched.— The passengers were allowed to go below, and to take what they claimed as their own, and no hands belonging to the *Argus* were permitted to

inspect them while they were employed in so doing.

On one occasion, when a passenger had left his surtout behind him, it was sent after him in the boat: on another occasion Captain Allen ordered one of his hands, who was detected in the act of some petty plunder of this kind, to be flogged at the gangway. The English papers, while they were writhing under the severe injuries thus inflicted, were unanimous in their testimonials of respect to the conduct of this gallant officer, for the humanity and delicacy with which he performed a service so invidious. Probably no action of his life could more plainly distinguish his character than this: he loved danger as much as he abhorred to plunder the defenceless.

It appeared very evident, that if prudence was consulted, it was his imperious duty to avoid an engagement. The damage which he might have done the enemy, by another species of warfare, was beyond all comparison greater than by risking a battle, even if fortune had decided the controversy in his favour. Even a victory ensured capture; for alone and unsupported as he was, his own ship would, in all human probability, suffer material injury, and both the captured and the captor become the prize of one of the many frigates then swarming in the English channel.—These considerations, however, would have but little weight with him. He declared, previous to his setting out, that he would run from no two masted vessel. Anxious to acquit himself of a business which he so much disliked, he sought an opportunity to act in a situation more congenial to his feelings.

Accordingly on the 14th of August, 1813, he fell in with his Britannic majesty's sloop of war

Pelican: and, after a severely contested action, the Argus was compelled to surrender; her commander having received a mortal wound, in the early part of the engagement, of which he died in the 29th year of his age.

The following letter from John Hawker, Esq. ci-devant American vice consul, will speak for itself:

Portsmouth, August 19th, 1813.

SIR—The station I have had the honour to hold for many years past, of American vice-consul, calls forth my poignant feelings in the communication I have to make to you of the death of your son, Captain Allen, late commander of the United States' brig of war Argus, which vessel was captured on Saturday last, in the Irish channel, after a very sharp action of three quarters of an hour, by his Britannic majesty's ship Pelican.

Early in the action he lost his left leg, but refused to be carried below, till from loss of blood he fainted. Messrs. Edwards and Delphy, midshipmen, and four seamen were killed; and Lieut. Watson, the carpenter, boatswain, boatswain's mate, and seven men wounded. Captain Allen submitted to amputation above the knee, while at sea. He was yesterday morning attended by very eminent surgical gentlemen, and removed from the Argus to the hospital, where every possible attention and assistance would have been afforded him had he survived; but which was not, from the first moment, expected, from the shattered state of his thigh. At eleven, last night, he breathed his last! He was sensible at intervals, until within ten minutes of his dissolution, when he sunk exhausted, and expired without a struggle! His lucid intervals were very cheerful, and he was satisfied and fully sensible that no advice or assistance would

be wanting. A detached room was prepared by the commissary and chief surgeon, and female attendants engaged, that every tenderness and respect might be experienced. The master, purser, surgeon, and one midshipman, accompanied Captain Allen, who was also attended by his two servants.

I have communicated and arranged with the officers respecting the funeral, which will be in the most respectful, and at the same time, economical manner. The port Admiral has signified that it is the intention of his Britannic majesty's government, that it be *publicly* attended by officers of rank, and with military honours. The time fixed for procession is on Saturday, at 11, A. M. A Lieutenant-Colonel's guard of the royal marines is also appointed. A wainscoat coffin has been ordered; on the breast plate of which will be inscribed as below.* Mr. Delphy, one of the midshipmen, who lost both legs, and died at sea, was buried yesterday in St. Andrew's churchyard. I have requested that Captain Allen may be buried as near him, on the right (in the same vault, if practicable,) as possible.

I remain, respectfully, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed,)

JOHN HAWKER,

Ci-devant American vice-consul.

To Gen. Allen, &c. &c. &c. Providence, R. I.

Agreeably to previous arrangement, the remains of the departed Allen were interred at Ply-

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* Tablet, whereon will be recorded the name, rank, age, and character of the deceased, and also of the midshipman; will be placed, (if it can be contrived) as I have suggested; both having lost their lives in fighting for the honour of their country.

mouth, on the 21st of August, with military honours, and every mark of respect due to his rank. The flag of his country, under which he fought, was placed on his coffin, as a testimonial of the valour with which he had so nobly strove to defend it ; and his body was deposited at the right of the gallant Delphy, who had bled and suffered with him.

Thus lived and thus died William Henry Allen.

By the company and conversation of the elegant and polite, the hard and severe duties of the sailor acquired a sort of polish, and his character presented that combination of gallantry, grace and intrepidity, that so irresistibly attracts. In the hour of danger, he was calm, intrepid and persevering ; in private intercourse, guarded, affable and delicate. Entering into the navy with large and expanded ideas of honour, the perils he encountered, and the hard services he endured, consolidated his romantic and floating visions into rules and principles of action. By never lowering his lofty standard amidst the jumble of contending difficulties, he at length arrived at it ; and new trials served only to call into exercise new and unexplored resources of fortitude. He had so long forsaken every other consideration for glory, that he finally measured his life by this standard, and felt a repulsive antipathy to whatever fell short of that measure.

There has seemed a sort of compact among our naval commanders, never to quit their station on deck. Allen, in his mutilated state, refused to be carried below, and fainted on the deck from loss of blood. Lawrence showed the same determined spirit, and never left his station until he was too far exhausted by his wounds to animate his men by his example. Burrows, although mortally

wounded at his quarters, still remained at his post, survived the action, and there received the sword of his gallant and intrepid antagonist.

The following extract from Captain Allen's letter, addressed to his sister, will show the character of this intrepid officer in an amiable light :

"When you shall hear that I have ended my earthly career, that I only exist in the kind remembrance of my friends, you will forget my follies, forgive my faults, call to mind some little instances dear to reflection to excuse your love for me, and shed one tear to the memory of

HENRY."

LIEUTENANT

JOHN CUSHING AYLWIN.

THOMAS AYLWIN, a merchant of the town of Boston, espoused the sister of the late William Cushing, who at the time of his decease was one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. In the early stage of the American Revolution, Mr. Aylwin removed from Boston to Quebec, where he remained during the whole contest. At the close of that war, his son John Cushing Aylwin, was born, in the capital of Lower Canada. His education was more useful than speculative. He obtained a familiar knowledge of the French language ; was instructed in the rudiments of Latin, and the elements of Mathematics. In early life he was rated on board a British frigate commanded by Captain Coffin. In consequence of the impressment of one of his particular companions, he left the British service in disgust.

Retaining, however, his predilection for the sea, as soon as he lost his parents, he abandoned those pursuits which had been pointed out for him, and entered an apprentice on board a ship in the London trade.

His master, the Captain of the vessel, did not fulfil on his part, the articles which he had entered into with Aylwin. Instead of allowing him six month's tuition, at a naval academy, according to stipulation, his master continued him on board the ship, which he employed in the West-India trade. Aylwin, nevertheless, so much profited by a short experience, that after two voyages, he was advanced to be mate of the ship, being then about fifteen years of age. Some dispute having arisen between him and the Captain, the latter wreaked upon Aylwin, a vengeance to him emphatically horrible. It was contrived, that he should be kidnapped by a press-gang.

After his impressment, he was put on board a gun brig ; and here every artifice was practised, and every means employed, to induce him to enter voluntarily into the English service. Promotion was offered him in case of his compliance, and upon his refusal, his letters to his friends, were suppressed, and himself continued, from day to day, and from year to year, without prospect of deliverance, traversing distant seas, and enduring all the diversities of climate. The North Sea, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the East-Indies, with all their varieties of climate and misery, had tried his patience and weakened his frame. His diminishing health rendering him less serviceable, he was released and came to Boston, after being six years in imprisonment. Thus a temporary loss of health, was the instrument of a permanent enjoy-

ment of liberty. Nor were his sufferings unattended or unrewarded by countervailing advantages. He had become a finished seaman; and having acquired that accomplishment, principally during long service in an armed vessel, and having borne a part in several engagements, he was likewise a proficient in naval warfare.

He now entered the merchant service, which he prosecuted as master of a vessel for several years. At the beginning of the late war, he was appointed sailing-master of the frigate *Constitution*, Captain Hull, with an understanding, that this appointment should not prejudice his claim to promotion as a commissioned officer, and also, that such promotion should take place with all proper expedition. On the first cruise of the *Constitution*, his seamanship was called into exercise. Her escape, after a pursuit of sixty hours, on her first putting to sea from the Chesapeake, is reckoned among the most masterly manœuvres which have been performed in the navy. In such circumstances, the duty of sailing-master is most important; and in the event of success, he may justly claim a proportionate degree of credit.

Mr. Aylwin continued on board the *Constitution* till the capture of the *Java*, which terminated his life. At the capture of the *Guerriere*, he still officiated as sailing-master; and by his display of nautical skill, both in bringing her into action and managing her during its continuance, called forth the applause of Captain Hull, and of every person who was witness of it. In this action he received a wound from a musket ball, and was afterwards appointed Lieutenant, in which character he again sailed in the *Constitution*, Captain Bainbridge. In her action with the *Java*, where the capture of the latter was purchased with the

life of Aylwin, his courage and skill came up to the high anticipations which his former merits had excited. A musket ball or grape shot, struck him just under the collar bone, and came out at the shoulder blade. We close this memoir, by the obituary notice furnished to the public by Commodore Bainbridge.

“Died on board the United States’ frigate Constitution, at sea, the 28th of January, 1812, of wounds received in the action with the Java, Lieutenant John Cushing Aylwin, of the United States’ navy. He entered the service about the time war was declared, as a sailing-master, and was promoted to a Lieutenancy, for his gallant conduct in the action with the Guerriere. He was an officer of great merit, much esteemed by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He had seen much of the world, and improved his opportunities of observation; possessed a strong mind, with great benevolence of disposition. In his death, our country has suffered a great loss—his friends a painful deprivation.

“In the action with the Guerriere, he stood on an elevated situation, by the side of his brave comrades, Morris and Bush, at the time the two vessels came in contact, and was wounded in the left shoulder with a musket ball.

“In the late action he commanded the forecas-tle division, and his bravery and marked coolness throughout the contest, gained him the admiration of his commander, and all who had an opportunity of witnessing him.

“When boarders were called to repel boarders, he mounted the quarter deck hammock-cloths, and, in the act of firing his pistols at the enemy, received a ball through the same shoulder. Notwithstanding the serious nature of his wound,

he continued at his post until the enemy had struck; and even then did not make known his situation until all the wounded had been dressed. His zeal and courage did not forsake him in his last moments: for, a few days after the action, although labouring under considerable debility, and the most excruciating pain, he repaired to quarters, when an engagement was expected with a ship, which afterwards proved to be the *Hornet*. He bore his pain with great and unusual fortitude, and expired without a groan.

“A dauntless soul erect, who smiled on death.”



LIEUTENANT

WILLIAM BURROWS

WAS born on the 6th of October, 1785, in Kensington, then near, now joined to Philadelphia. His father, at this time in affluent circumstances, designed to give him a *belles lettres* education. Left to his own inclination, at thirteen years of age, his use of books was gratifying only curiosity and amusement, subjects not of lasting importance. The accomplishments of polished life, necessarily embraced a knowledge of the living languages, and for the attainment of this object alone was parental authority exercised, which was but partially accomplished. A knowledge of the French, in particular, was considered an accomplishment of the highest order, in the attainment of which, the son manifested the greatest reluctance. But in acquiring a knowledge of the German language, with the father a secondary object, he was much more successful. He learnt

to speak it in a short period, as fluently as his native tongue.

Having undergone a course of preparatory education, the impulse of his passion was gratified by the reception of a Midshipman's warrant, in November, 1799. From this moment, he devoted his hours to acquire a complete knowledge of navigation. In January, 1800, he was ordered to repair on board the Portsmouth, Captain M'Neill, then bound for France. Being as yet a novice in naval service, he reluctantly wore the naval uniform of his country, conceiving those only worthy to wear it, whose experience and knowledge rendered them capable of performing honourably the duties assigned them. In this vessel he returned to the United States in December, 1800. A short residence in France conquered his aversion to the language of that country, and he embraced the opportunity to acquire a sufficient knowledge thereof, so as to converse therein with elegance and ease.

He now applied and obtained a furlough for a short period, which time he ardently devoted to the further acquisition of a complete knowledge of the science of navigation.

From the year 1800 to 1803, he served on board of several ships of war, in various cruises, unimportant in any point of view, except the opportunities offered him to acquire a more perfect knowledge of naval affairs.

In the year 1803, he joined the frigate Constitution. This vessel was commanded by Commodore Preble, and was bound for the Mediterranean. The Commodore conceiving an attachment to him, appointed him, when in the Mediterranean, an acting Lieutenant, the duties of which station he honourably fulfilled, during the Tripoline war.

The particular part acted by Lieutenant Burrows in this warfare is not known; he maintained, on the subject of his personal exploits, a profound silence. He never would be the herald of his own fame; but he was just to the merits of his brother officers; and very rarely could he be induced to speak of affairs in which himself was an actor. Whatever was known of Burrows came from other sources. It is a striking fact, that none are more ignorant of his personal exploits than his own immediate relatives. He professed, on all occasions, his contempt of those officers* who embraced every opportunity to proclaim their own merits.

In 1807, he returned from Tripoli to his native country; and in the following year, was attached to the Philadelphia station, and employed in the bay and river Delaware, as commander of gunboat No. 119, enforcing the provisions of the embargo law.

His wit was mingled with a species of whim, that may more properly be denominated *humour*. With an inflexible gravity of face, he would set the table in a roar, and then reprove his guests for the turbulence of their mirth. Not a single smile would enliven the gravity of his visage, while all the company were vociferous in their joy. In this action and retro-action, between mock solemnity and uncontrollable mirth, Lieutenant Burrows was pre-eminent. Under the pretext of repressing the mirth of conversation, he enlivened it beyond all bounds, and could assume any character he thought proper. While employed in a service in which his master passion of glory

.....
 * A biting sarcasm this, on the host of Military *Puffers*, of mushroom growth, during the late war.

could receive no gratification, he gave this singular species of whim and eccentricity full play. He would, while on shore, have the grave and saturnine character of the severe and unbending moralist, or the light and airy fop, as occasion demanded. Whatever character was wanting to complete the conviviality of the group, when assembled, Burrows assumed it. By this happy versatility of talent he became a desirable guest at every table, and was the favourite of all classes of men. His approach was hailed as the certain precursor of wit and humour; and the company, on a second interview, were sure of beholding him in a character entirely different from the first. By this happy combination of humour, and an eccentricity always sparkling, and always various, while he rigidly enforced the observance of the embargo law, he acquired the confidence and affection of the inhabitants. He relieved the asperities of this unthankful service by such arts; and the citizens supplied him with the best of provisions, for the use of the men whom he commanded, and were incessant in their invitations for him to become a guest at their tables. When he was called off from this service, it was a subject of general regret.

In 1809, he was ordered to join the frigate *President*, Captain Bainbridge. From this ship he was transferred to the sloop of war *Hornet*, as first Lieutenant, under Captain Hunt. In a dangerous and heavy gale, his brother officers have reported, that by his superior skill and intrepidity, as an officer, the ship and the crew were both preserved from what they deemed inevitable destruction.

In his promotion to a Lieutenantcy, he found himself outranked by his junior officers. This

was so severely wounding to his pride, that he remonstrated to the proper department, in very feelings terms. He stated that he was now commanded by Lieutenants who had formerly served under him, in the Tripoline war. To withdraw a commission from the individual on whom it is conferred, to declare an officer unworthy of the honour thus bestowed, is an outrage of the same character as to wantonly place a junior over the head of his senior officer. Whether objections of this nature weighed with the government, we know not: but certain his remonstrances proved ineffectual. Finding that there was no prospect of having his complaints listened to, with a favourable ear, he tendered his resignation to Mr. Secretary Hamilton, at the time of that gentleman's going out of office. It was not accepted, and Lieutenant Burrows had now to bear with fortitude what he was unable to remedy. He applied to the government in March, 1812, for a furlough, for the purpose of prosecuting a voyage to India, which was granted. He found it indispensable, as his circumstances were at this time, somewhat embarrassed; and he accordingly went on board the ship *Thomas Penrose*, from Philadelphia, bound to Canton, under the command of Captain Ansley, of that city. On the return passage, the ship was captured and carried into Barbadoes. Lieutenant Burrows arrived in the United States, on his parole, in June 1813, and in the succeeding month, was regularly exchanged.

Shortly after this, he was ordered by government to repair to Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, and to take the command of the United States' sloop of war *Enterprise*, then in a state of readiness for sea. His mind was still sore with a sense of his

unredressed grievance, on the subject of his rank. But the prospect of active service gratified his love of glory, which suspended, all other considerations. He declared, to an intimate friend, that he would serve during the war, and that he would then dash his commission in the fire. He sacrificed all minor feelings, and promptly accepted the appointment.

The *Enterprise* left the harbour of Portsmouth on the 5th of September, 1814. The next day, she fell in with his Britannic majesty's brig the *Boxer*, mounting sixteen eighteen pound carronades, and two long nine pounders. The *Boxer* fired a shot, hoisted English colours, and immediately bore down upon the *Enterprise*. The American vessel was tacking and making preparations for action. Having obtained the weather gage, she manœuvred for some time to try her sailing, and ascertain the force of her antagonist. At length she shortened sail, hoisted three ensigns, and fired three shot in answer. The action now grew warm; the *Boxer* bore within half pistol shot of the *Enterprise*, and giving three cheers, fired her starboard broadside. She was answered by three cheers and a larboard broadside from the *Enterprise*, and the action became general. The *Enterprise* having the advantage of the wind, ranged ahead of her enemy, rounded to on the larboard tack, and commenced a raking broadside. The enemy's maintopsail and topsail-yards came down, and the *Enterprise* taking a position on the starboard bow of the *Boxer*, and opening a raking fire, compelled the enemy to cry for quarters. Their colours were nailed to the mast, and could not be hauled down. This action was continued for forty-five minutes, during which time the *Boxer* received much

damage in sails, rigging, spars and hull. The *Enterprise* had but one eighteen pound shot in her hull, one in her mainmast, and one in her foremast. Her sails were much cut with grape shot, and a great number of grape were lodged in her side. The *Boxer* had twenty eighteen pound shot in the hull, most of them at the water edge, with several stands of eighteen pound grape in her side. Lieutenant M'Call stated his loss to have been four killed, and ten wounded. The number killed on board of the *Boxer* is uncertain; the same officer states, from the best information which he was able to procure, that there was, of the enemy, between twenty and twenty-five killed, and fourteen wounded.

At the first fire, Lieutenant Burrows was mortally wounded by a musket ball; he refused, notwithstanding, to be carried below, and during the whole of the action, he lay bleeding on the deck. With his dying lips he requested that the flag might never be struck. When the sword of his gallant enemy was presented to him, he clasped his hands together, and exclaimed, "I am satisfied—I die contented." He was then carried below, and expired shortly after. Captain Blythe, of the *Boxer*, who was killed by a cannon ball, was one of the supporters of the pall at the funeral of the unfortunate Lawrence. These brave men now slumber side by side, and their antipathies with them. The following resolution unanimously passed both Houses of Congress:

"*Resolved*, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be requested to present to the nearest male relation of Lieutenant WILLIAM BURROWS, and to Lieutenant EDWIN R. M'CALL, of

the brig *Enterprise*, a *gold medal*, with suitable emblems and devices; and a *silver medal*, with like emblems and devices, to each of the commissioned officers of the aforesaid vessel; in testimony of the high sense, entertained by Congress, of the gallantry and good conduct of the officers and crew, in the conflict with the British sloop *Boxer*, on the fourth of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirteen. And the President is also requested to communicate to the nearest male relation of Lieutenant Burrows, the deep regret which Congress feel for the loss of that valuable officer, who died in the arms of victory, nobly contending for his country's rights and fame."

The remains of the gallant commanders, (Burrows and Blythe) were buried at Portland, with military honours.

The following memorial was caused to be inscribed on the monument of the gallant Lieutenant Burrows, of Portland, by Mr. M. L. Davis, of New-York.

"Beneath this stone, moulders the body of Williams Burrows, late commander of the United States' brig *Enterprise*, who was mortally wounded on the 5th of September, 1813, in an action which contributed to increase the fame of American valour, by capturing his Britannic Majesty's brig *Boxer*, after a severe contest of forty-five minutes. A passing stranger has erected this monument of respect to the name of a patriot, who, in the hour of peril, obeyed the loud summons of an injured country, and who gallantly met, fought, and conquered the foeman."

CAPTAIN

JAMES LAWRENCE.

JOHN LAWRENCE, Esq was a respectable lawyer of the state of New-Jersey, and resided in the city of Burlington. He had several children, sons and daughters, of whom the youngest, James, forms the subject of this memoir. He had the misfortune to lose his wife, a few weeks after the birth of this son, which took place on the 1st of October, 1781, and, consequently committed him to the affectionate care of his daughters, for whom their brother ever manifested the warmest gratitude and friendship.

His juvenile years were chequered with nothing more than the ordinary occurrences to which that stage of life is universally subjected. He was mild in his temper, modest in his manners, dutiful and affectionate to his relatives and friends.

His father designed him for the bar, but he, very early, discovered a predeliction for naval pursuits, from which, in vain, his father attempted to divert him. In obedience, however, to his father's wishes, he spent a few years in the dry studies of the law, until his father's death, which enabled him, by the consent of his uncle, to follow the bent of his inclination. He learnt navigation, and, at seventeen years of age, was honoured with a Midshipman's warrant. His first voyage was a cruise, in the ship *Ganges*, under Captain Tingey, in the West-Indies, during the short misunderstanding between France and the United States. This and several subsequent ones furnished no incidents of character worthy of record. The Tripoline war, however, was of a different cast. In this the most determined spirit was dis-

played. At this time, Mr. Lawrence was appointed a Lieutenant, and assumed the command of the schooner *Enterprise*. During this expedition he volunteered in the hazardous exploit of destroying the frigate *Philadelphia*, and accompanied Decatur as his first Lieutenant. The brilliant success of that enterprise is well known, and for the gallantry and skill displayed on the occasion, Decatur was made post-captain, while Lawrence in common with the other officers and crew, was voted by Congress, only two months extra pay—which he declined accepting.

The harbour of Tripoli seemed now to have become a sort of rendezvous and school for the American infant navy. The coast of Barbary was the field of their first experience and youthful achievement. The most of the officers may be fairly styled young heroes, full of life, spirit and enthusiasm—It was there they formed those strong ties of brotherly love and friendship, that natural confidence, which has distinguished them for that bold spirit and defiance of danger, evinced throughout the late war, and which is without a parallel in any other nation of the same duration.

Nearly three years and a half, did Lawrence remain on the Mediterranean station, after which he returned to the United States, with Commodore Preble, and was sent out as commander of gun boat No. 6, in which station he remained for sixteen months ; after this, he acted as first Lieutenant of the *Constitution*, and as commander successively of the *Vixen*, the *Wasp*, the *Argus*, and the *Hornet*.

In 1808, he was married to the daughter of Mr. Montdavent, a respectable merchant of New-York.

Soon after the commencement of the late war against Great Britain and its dependencies, he sailed in the *Hornet* sloop of war, as part of the squadron that cruised under Commodore Rodgers. While he was absent on this cruise, Lieutenant Morris was promoted to the rank of post-captain for his bravery and skill as first Lieutenant of the *Constitution*, in the action with the *Guerriere*.

This appointment as it raised him two grades, and placed him over the heads of older officers, gave just offence to many of the navy, who could not brook that the regular rules of the service should be infringed. It was thought partially unjust, as giving him rank above Lawrence, who had equally distinguished himself as first Lieutenant of *Decatur*, in the destruction of the frigate *Philadelphia*, and who, at present was but master and commander.

On returning from this cruise, Lawrence consulted with his friends, and addressed a memorial to the Senate, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, wherein, after acknowledging the great merits and services of Captain Morris, he remonstrated in the most respectful and temperate, but firm and manly language, on the impropriety of his promotion, as being contrary to the nature of naval precedence, and particularly as it respected himself; at the same time he frankly mentioned that he should be compelled, however reluctantly, to leave the service, if thus improperly out-ranked.

The reply of the Secretary, was brief and singular—barely observing—“*that if he thought proper to leave the service without a cause, there would still remain heroes and patriots enough to support the flag.*”

This laconic epistle did not come directly to Lawrence's hands, as he had then set out on another cruize to the Brazils, with Commodore Bainbridge in the constitution. Off the Brazils, they fell in with a British sloop of war, called the *Bonne Citoyenne*, having a large amount of specie on board, which they chased into St. Salvatore. This vessel was larger and of greater force than the *Hornet*, yet Captain Lawrence had contrived to have information communicated to Captain Green of the *Bonne Citoyenne*, acquainting him that he wished for an interview, and pledging his honour that neither the Constitution nor any other vessel would interfere, which was supported by a similar one given by Commodore Bainbridge, that he should not interfere; yet Captain Green declined the combat, alleging, that though perfectly satisfied that the event of such a rencountre would be honourable to his ship, yet he was equally convinced that Commodore Bainbridge could not swerve so much from the paramount duty he owed his country, as to become an inactive spectator, and see a ship belonging to the very squadron under his orders, fall into the hands of the enemy.

It was immediately made known to Green that Commodore Bainbridge left the *Hornet* for four days, off from the harbour in which the *Bonne Citoyenne* lay; and at the distance of forty miles. Lawrence afterwards went into the harbour and remained three days, when he might have only have remained twenty-four hours had Captain Green requested it. At length the Constitution went off altogether, leaving Lawrence to blockade the *Bonne Citoyenne*, which he did for nearly a month, Captain Green not judging it proper to risk an encounter. The only excuse that could

have been made for Green is, that he did not think himself fit to depart from the purpose of his voyage, and risk his vessel in a contest for mere individual reputation. The arrival of the British ship Montague, of 74 guns, from Rio Janerio, obliged Captain Lawrence to change his cruising ground, on the twenty-fourth of January. The Montague had been expressly sent for the purpose of relieving the Bonne Citoyenne and a British packet of 12 guns, which also lay at St. Salvadore. During this cruise, Captain Lawrence fell in with the British brig Peacock, Captain Peake, off Demerara, a vessel of about equal force. The combat commenced within half pistol shot, and so tremendous was the fire from the Hornet, that, in fifteen minutes, the Peacock surrendered and made signals of distress, being in a sinking condition. Her main-mast had gone by the board and she was altogether reduced to an absolute wreck, in so great a degree that, notwithstanding every exertion was made to keep her afloat until the prisoners could be removed, she sunk with thirteen of her crew, and three brave American tars, who thus nobly perished in endeavouring to relieve a conquered foe. Among the slain on board the Peacock, was found the body of Captain Peake, who was wounded twice during the action, the last of which proved mortal. His body was wrapped in his flag, as a shroud, and laid in the cabin.

During the battle, the British brig L'Espeigle mounting fifteen thirty-two pound carronades, and two long nines, lay at anchor about six miles in shore. The Hornet accordingly was put immediately in a situation for commencing another action, and in about three hours was in complete repair, but the enemy did not think proper to make any attack.

The conduct of Captain Lawrence towards the prisoners, was truly humane and commendable, and such has been the conduct generally of all the officers of our navy, on similar occasions. The officers of the *Peacock*, on their arrival at New-York, said, "they ceased to consider themselves as prisoners;" besides making a public acknowledgment in the Newspapers, to Capt. Lawrence, for his good treatment, &c.

It must also be recorded to the honour of the *Hornet's* crew, that, on observing the *Peacock's* prisoners had lost all their cloathing by the sinking of their ship, these good fellows made a muster, and from their own wardrobes supplied each prisoner with two shirts and a blue jacket and trowsers.

On returning to this country, Captain Lawrence was received with great distinction and applause, and various public bodies conferred on him peculiar tokens of approbation. While absent, the rank of post-captain had been conferred on him, and shortly after his return, he received a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, offering him the command of the frigate *Constitution*, provided neither Captains Porter or Evans applied for it, they being older officers. Captain Lawrence respectfully declined this conditional appointment, for satisfactory reasons which he stated to the Secretary. He then received an unconditional appointment to that frigate, and directions to superintend the Navy-yard at New-York in the absence of Captain Ludlow. The next day, to his great surprise and chagrin, he received counter orders, with instructions to take command of the frigate *Chesapeake*, then lying at Boston, nearly ready for sea. This appointment was particularly disagreeable to him. He was prejudiced against

the Chesapeake, both from her being considered the worst ship in our navy, and from having been in a manner disgraced in the affair with the Leopard. This last circumstance had acquired her the character of an unlucky ship—the worst of stigmas among sailors, who are devout believers in good and bad luck; and so detrimental was it to this vessel, that it had been difficult to recruit crews for her.

The extreme repugnance that Captain Lawrence felt to this appointment, induced him to write to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting to be continued in the command of the Hornet. Besides, it was his wish to remain some short time in port, and enjoy a little repose in the bosom of his family : particularly as his wife was in that delicate situation, that most calls forth the tenderness and solicitude of an affectionate husband. But though he wrote four letters to the Secretary he never received an answer, and was obliged reluctantly to acquiesce.

While laying in Boston roads, nearly ready for sea, the British frigate Shannon appeared off the harbour, and made signals expressive of a challenge. The brave Lawrence immediately determined on accepting it, though conscious at the time of the great disparity between the two ships. The Shannon was a prime vessel, equipped in an extraordinary manner, for the express purpose of combating advantageously one of our largest frigates. She had an unusually numerous crew of picked men, thoroughly disciplined and well officered. She was commanded by Captain Broke, one of the bravest and ablest officers in the service, who fought merely for reputation.

On the other hand, the Chesapeake was an inferior ship, with a crew, a great part of whom

were newly recruited, and not brought into a proper discipline. They were strangers to their commander, who had not had time to produce that perfect subordination, yet strong personal attachment, which he had the talent of creating wherever he commanded. His first Lieutenant was sick on shore ; the other officers, though meritorious, were young men ; two of them mere acting Lieutenants ; most of them recently appointed to the ship, and unacquainted with the men.

The most earnest endeavours were used, by Commodore Bainbridge and other gentlemen, to dissuade Captain Lawrence from what was considered a rash and unnecessary exposure. He felt and acknowledged the force of their reasons, but persisted in his determination. He was peculiarly situated : he had formerly challenged the *Bonne Citoyenne*, and should he decline a similar challenge, it might subject him to sneers and misrepresentations. Among the other unfortunate circumstances that attended this ill-starred battle, was the delay of a written challenge from Captain Broke, which did not arrive until after Captain Lawrence had sailed. It is stated to have been couched in the most frank and courteous language ; minutely detailing the force of his ship : and offering, if the *Chesapeake* should not be completely prepared, to cruise off and on until such time as she made a specified signal of being ready for the conflict. It is to be deeply regretted that Captain Lawrence did not receive this gallant challenge, as it would have given him time to put his ship in proper order, and spared him the necessity of hurrying out in his unprepared condition, to so formal and momentous an encounter.

After getting the ship under way, he called the crew together, and having ordered the white flag

to be hoisted, bearing the motto, "Free trade and sailors' rights," he, according to custom, made them a short harangue. While he was speaking, several murmurs were heard, and strong symptoms of dissatisfaction appeared in the manners and countenances of the crew. After he had finished, a scoundrel Portuguese, who was boatswain's mate, and acted as spokesman to the murmurers, replied to Captain Lawrence in an insolent manner, complaining among other things, that they had not been paid their prize-money, which had been due for some time past.

The critical nature of the moment, and his ignorance of the dispositions and characters of his crew, would not allow Captain Lawrence to notice such dastardly and mutinous conduct in the manner it deserved. He dared not thwart the humours of men, over whose affections he had not had time to acquire any influence, and therefore ordered the purser to take them below and give them checks for their prize money, which was accordingly done.

It was on the morning of the first of June that the Chesapeake put to sea. The Shannon, on seeing her come out, bore away, and the other followed. At 4, P. M. the Chesapeake hauled up and fired a gun; the Shannon then hove to. The vessels manœuvred in awful silence, until within pistol shot, when the Shannon opened her fire, and both vessels, almost at the same moment poured forth tremendous broadsides. The execution in both ships was terrible, but the fire of the Shannon was peculiarly fatal, not only making great slaughter among the men, but cutting down some of the most valuable officers. The very first shot killed Mr. White, sailing-master of the Chesapeake, an excellent officer, whose loss at such a

moment was disastrous in the extreme. The fourth Lieutenant, Mr. Ballard, received also a mortal wound in this broadside, and at the same moment Captain Lawrence was shot through the leg with a musket ball; he however supported himself on the companion way, and continued to give his orders with his usual coolness. About three broadsides were exchanged, which, from the closeness of the ships, were dreadfully destructive. The Chesapeake had three men shot from her helm successively, each taking it as the other fell; this of course produced irregularity in the steering, and the consequence was, that her anchor caught in one of the Shannon's after ports. She was thus in a position where her guns could not be brought to bear upon the enemy, while the latter was enabled to fire raking shots from her foremost guns, which swept the upper decks of the Chesapeake, killing or wounding the greater portion of the men. A hand-grenade was thrown on the quarter-deck, which set fire to some musket cartridges, but did no other damage.

In this state of carnage and exposure, about twenty of the Shannon's men, seeing a favourable opportunity for boarding, without waiting for orders, jumped on the deck of the Chesapeake.—Captain Lawrence had scarce time to call his boarders, when he received a second and mortal wound from a musket ball which lodged in his intestines. Lieutenant Cox, who commanded the second division, rushed up at the call for the boarders, but came just in time to receive his falling commander. He was in the act of carrying him below, when Captain Broke, accompanied by his first Lieutenant, and followed by his regular boarders, sprang on board the Chesapeake. The brave Lawrence saw the overwhelming danger;

his last words, as he was borne bleeding from the deck, were, "Don't surrender the ship!"

Samuel Livermore, Esq. of Boston, who, from personal attachment to Captain Lawrence, had accompanied him in this cruise as Chaplain, attempted to revenge his fall. He shot at Captain Broke, but missed him: the latter made a cut at his head, which Livermore warded off, but in so doing, received a severe wound in the arm. The only officer that now remained on the upper deck was Lieutenant Ludlow, who was so entirely weakened and disabled by repeated wounds received early in the action, as to be incapable of personal resistance. The comparatively small number of men, therefore, that survived on the upper decks, having no officer to head them, the British succeeded in securing complete possession, before those from below could get up. Lieutenant Budd, who had commanded the first division below, being informed of the danger, hastened up with some men, but was overpowered by superior numbers, and cut down immediately. Great embarrassment took place, in consequence of the officers being unacquainted with the crew. In one instance in particular, Lieutenant Cox, on mounting the deck, joined a party of the enemy through mistake, and was made sensible of his error, by their cutting at him with their sabres.

While this scene of havoc and confusion was going on above, Captain Lawrence, who was lying in the ward-room in excruciating pain, hearing the firing cease, forgot the anguish of his wounds: having no officer near him, he ordered the surgeon to hasten on deck and tell the officers to fight on to the last, and never to strike the colours: adding, "they shall wave while I live." The fate of the battle, however, was decided. Finding

all further resistance vain, and a mere waste of life, Lieutenant Ludlow gave up the ship; after which he received a sabre wound in the head from one of the Shannon's crew, which fractured his skull, and ultimately proved mortal. He was one of the most promising officers of his age in the service, highly esteemed for his professional talents, and beloved for the generous qualities that adorned his private character.

Thus terminated one of the most remarkable combats on naval record. From the peculiar accidents that attended it, the battle was short, desperate and bloody. So long as the cannonading continued, the Chesapeake is said to have clearly had the advantage; and had the ships not run foul, it is probable she would have captured the Shannon. Though considerably damaged in her upper works, and pierced with some shot holes in her hull, yet she had sustained no injury to affect her safety; whereas the Shannon had received several shots between wind and water, and, consequently, could not have sustained the action long. The havoc on both sides was dreadful; but to the singular circumstance of having every officer on the upper deck either killed or wounded, early in the action, may chiefly be attributed the loss of the Chesapeake.

The two ships presented dismal spectacles after the battle. Crowded with the wounded and the dying, they resembled floating hospitals, sending forth groans at every roll. The brave Broke lay delirious from a wound in the head, which he is said to have received while endeavouring to prevent the slaughter of some of our men who had surrendered. In his rational intervals, he always spoke in the highest terms of the courage and skill of Lawrence, and the "gallant and masterly

style" in which he brought the Chesapeake into action.

The wounds of Captain Lawrence rendered it impossible to remove him after the battle, and his cabin being very much shattered, he remained in the ward-room. Here he lay, attended by his own surgeon, and surrounded by his brave and suffering officers. He made no comment on the battle, nor indeed was heard to utter a word, except to make such simple requests as his necessities required. In this way he lingered through four days, in extreme bodily pain, and then expired.

His body was wrapped in the colours of his ship and buried by the British at Halifax with the honours of war. From thence it was removed by his friends to Salem, in the state of Massachusetts, where it received the most particular respect, and was again removed to the city of New-York, where it was buried with the honours of war.

At the time of his death he was but thirty-two years of age, nearly sixteen of which had been honourably expended in the service of his country. He was a disciplinarian of the highest order, producing perfect obedience and subordination without severity. His men became zealously devoted to him, and ready to do through affection what severity would have never compelled. He was scrupulously correct in his principles, delicate in his sense of honour; and to his extreme jealousy of reputation he fell a victim, in daring an ill-matched encounter, which prudence would have justified him in declining. In battle, where his lofty and commanding person made him conspicuous, the calm collected courage, and elevated tranquillity which he maintained in the midst of peril, imparted a confidence to every bosom. In

the hour of victory he was moderate and unassuming ; towards the vanquished he was gentle, generous and humane.

His brother being dead, he was the last male branch of a family, who looked up to him as its ornament and pride. His fraternal tenderness was the prop and consolation of two widowed sisters, and in him their helpless offspring found a father. He left also, a wife and two young children, to whom he was fervently attached. The critical situation of the former, was one of those cares, which preyed upon his mind at the time he went forth to battle. The utmost precautions were taken by his relatives to keep from her the knowledge of her husband's fate ; their anxiety was soon relieved by the birth of a son. The unfortunate mother at length recovered from a long and dangerous confinement, before she learned the heart-rending intelligence of her husband's fate.



COLONEL

R. M. JOHNSON.

THIS gentleman is a native of the State of Kentucky. When an infant, he was, with his mother and other women and children, refuged in a fort successfully defended only by about thirty men, against the assaults of a savage foe nearly 500 strong. His father was then absent in Virginia on business. Kentucky once formed a part of that state, and was denominated " New-Virginia," of which the eccentric Daniel Boon was the first settler. His early education was limited to a

country school. After this, four years application in a country grammar-school prepared him for the study of the law, the practice of which he began at nineteen years of age. When twenty-two years old, he was ushered into public life. After serving two years as a member of the Legislature of his native state, he was elected to a seat in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States. He has been always attached to the republican party, and supported his vote in the National Legislature, for war to resist the aggressions of Great-Britain, by his personal services in the field. Here he displayed the native dignity of his character, for courage, perseverance, and enterprise. His early rustic employments had braced his constitution, as it were, with iron nerves.

After the successful defence of fort Stephenson, when governor Shelby repaired to the scenes of warfare with 4000 mounted Kentuckians, to reinforce General Harrison in the Michigan Territory, Johnson commanded a *mounted regiment*, while the residue from imperious circumstances, consented to act as infantry. Governor Shelby's division arrived at the head-quarters of the North Western army on the seventeenth of September, 1813, shortly after Perry's victory.

With this force he halted at fort Meigs, with orders to advance to Detroit by land collaterally with the Commander-in-chief, who approached it by water. He was to be informed by express of every movement.

On the 30th of September, he arrived at Detroit, and immediately began to cross the river in boats. At this time, the British army was on its retreat up the river Thames, and Johnson's mounted regiment formed a part of the force selected to pursue it.

Early on the morning of the third of October, the General proceeded with Johnson's regiment, to prevent the destruction of the bridges over the different streams that fall into lake St. Clair and the Thames. These streams are deep and muddy, and are unfordable, for a considerable distance into the country. A Lieutenant of dragoons and thirty privates, who had been sent back by General Proctor, to destroy the bridges, were made prisoners near the mouth of the Thames; from them the General learnt that the enemy had no information of their advance.

The baggage of the army was brought from Detroit in boats, protected by a part of Commodore Perry's squadron. In the evening the army arrived at Drake's farm, eight miles from the mouth of the Thames, and encamped. This river is a fine, deep stream, navigable for vessels of considerable burthen, after the passage of the bar at its mouth, over which there is generally seven feet water. The gun-boats could ascend as far as Dalson's, below which the country is one continued prairie, and at once favourable for cavalry movements, and for the co-operation of the gun-boats. Above Dalson's, the aspect of the country changes; the river, though still deep, is not more than seventy yards wide, and its banks high and woody.

At Chatham, four miles from Dalson's, and sixteen miles from lake St Clair, is a small deep creek, where the army found the bridge taken up, and the enemy disposed to dispute their passage, and upon the arrival of the advance guard, commenced a heavy fire from the opposite bank, as well as a flank fire from the right bank of the river. The army halted and formed in order of battle. The bridge was repaired under the cover

of a fire from two six pounders. The Indians did not relish the fire from our cannon, and retired. Colonel Johnson, being on the right, had seized the remains of a bridge at M'Gregor's mills, under a heavy fire from the Indians. He lost on this occasion two killed and four wounded. The enemy set fire to a house near the bridge, containing a considerable quantity of muskets; the flames were extinguished and the arms saved. At the first farm above the bridge, they found one of the enemy's vessels on fire, loaded with arms and ordnance stores. Four miles higher up, the army took a position for the night. Here they found two other vessels, and a large distillery filled with ordnance and stores to an immense amount, in flames. Two twenty-four pounders, with their carriages, were taken, and a large quantity of balls and shells of various sizes.

The army was put in motion early on the morning of the fifth. The General accompanied Colonel Johnson; and Governor Shelby followed with the infantry. This morning the army captured two gun-boats and several batteaux loaded with provisions and ammunition. At nine, they reached Arnold's mills, where there was a fording place, and the only one for a considerable distance. Here the army crossed to the right bank, the mounted regiment fording, and the infantry in the captured boats. The passage, though retarded for want of a sufficient number of boats, was completed by 12 o'clock.

Eight miles above the ford, they passed the ground where the British force had encamped the night before. The General directed the advance of Colonel Johnson's regiment to accelerate their march, for the purpose of ascertaining the distance of the enemy. The officer commanding it,

shortly after sent word back that his progress was stopped by the enemy, who were formed across our line of march.

The army was now within three miles of the Moravian town, and within one mile of the enemy. The road passed through a beach forest without any clearing, and for the first two miles, near to the bank of the river. At the distance of fifty rods from the river, is a swamp running parallel to it, and extending all the way to the Indian village. The intermediate ground dry, the surface level, the trees lofty and thick, with very little underwood to impede the progress of man or horse, except that part which borders on the swamp.

Across this narrow strip of land, the British force was drawn up in line to prevent the advance of the American army. Their left, resting on the river, was defended by four pieces of cannon; near the centre were two other pieces. Near the swamp, the British line was covered by a large Indian force, who also lined the margin of the swamp to a considerable distance. The British troops amounted to 600; the Indians probably to 1200.

As it was not practicable to turn the enemy in flank, it became necessary to attack them in front. General Harrison did not long hesitate in his choice of the mode of attack. It was as novel as it was successful.

The troops at his disposal might amount to 3000 men; yet, from the peculiar nature of the ground, one half of this force could not advantageously engage the enemy.

About one hundred and fifty regulars, under Colonel Ball, occupied the narrow space between the road and river; they were ordered to advance and amuse the enemy; and if an opportunity

offered, to seize his cannon. A small party of friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. Colonel Johnson's regiment was drawn up in close column, with its right a few yards distant from the road, with orders to charge at full speed as soon as the enemy delivered his fire.—The Kentucky volunteers, under Major-General Henny, were formed in the rear of the mounted regiment, in three lines extending from the road to the swamp. General Desha's division covered the left of Johnson's regiment. Governor Shelby was at the crotchet, formed by the front line and General Desha's division.—This was an important point. General Cass and Commodore Perry volunteered as aids to General Harrison, who placed himself at the head of the front line of infantry, to direct the movements of the cavalry, and to give them the necessary support. Such was the order of battle.

The army moved in this order till the mounted men received the fire of the enemy, at the distance of two hundred yards. The charge was beat, and in an instant one thousand horse were in motion at full speed; the right, led on by Colonel Johnson, broke through the British lines and formed in their rear. The enemy's pieces were not loaded; their bayonets were not fixed, and they surrendered at discretion. The whole was the work of a minute. In breaking through their ranks, our men killed twelve and wounded thirty-seven of the British regulars. The shock was unexpected. They were not prepared to resist it; some were trampled under the feet of our horses; others were cut down by the soldiers; very few were shot, for the fire was not general. Had the enemy shown the least symptoms of resistance, after their lines were broken through, the greater

part would have been destroyed ; but they were passive. Never was terror more strongly depicted on the countenances of men. Even the officers were seen with uplifted hands, exclaiming “ quarters !” There is no doubt but that they expected to be massacred, believing that the Kentuckians would retaliate the bloody scenes of Raisin and Miami.

On the left the contest was more serious ; Colonel Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment, received a terrible fire from the Indians, which was kept up for some time. The Colonel led the head of his column into the hottest of the enemy’s fire, and was personally opposed to Tecumseh. At this point a condensed mass of savages had collected. Yet, regardless of danger, he rushed into the midst of them ; so thick were the Indians, at this moment, that several might have reached him with their rifles. He rode a white horse, and was known to be an officer of rank ; a shower of balls was discharged at him, some of which took effect. His horse was shot under him, and his clothes, his saddle, and his person was pierced with bullets.—At the moment his horse fell, Tecumseh rushed towards him with an uplifted tomahawk, to give the fatal stroke ; but his presence of mind did not forsake him in this perilous predicament ; he drew a pistol from his holster, and laid his daring opponent dead at his feet. He was unable to do more, the loss of blood deprived him of strength to stand. Fortunately, at the moment of Tecumseh’s fall, the enemy gave way, which secured him from the reach of their tomahawks. He received five shots—three in the right thigh, and two in the left arm. Six Americans and twenty-two Indians fell within 20 yards of the spot where Tecumseh was killed, and the trains of blood almost covered the ground.

The Indians continued a brisk fire from the margin of the swamp, which made some impression on a line of Kentucky volunteers ; but Governor Shelby brought up a regiment to its support, and their fire soon became too warm for the enemy. A part of Colonel Johnson's men having gained the rear of a part of the Indian line, the rout became general. A small party of Indians attempted to gain the village by running up the narrow strip of dry land, but they were soon overtaken and cut down. The Indians fought bravely, and sustained a severe loss in killed and wounded. The death of Tecumseh was to them an irreparable loss.*

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* The celebrated aboriginal warrior, Tecumseh, was in the 44th year of his age, when he fell at the battle of the Thames. He was of the Shawannoe tribe, five feet ten inches high, well formed for activity and the endurance of fatigue, which he was capable of sustaining in a very extraordinary degree. His carriage was erect and lofty—his motions quick—his eyes penetrating—his visage stern with an air of hauteur in his countenance, which arose from an elevated pride of soul—it did not leave him even in death. His eloquence was nervous, concise, impressive, figurative and sarcastic, being of a taciturn habit of speech, his words were few, but always to the purpose. His dress was plain—he was never known to indulge in gaudy decoration of his person, which is the general practice of the Indians. He wore on the day of his death, a dressed deer-skin coat and pantaloons. It is said he could read and write correctly ; of this however, it is doubtful, as he was the irreconcilable enemy to civilization, of course would not be apt to relish the fine arts. He was in every respect a savage, the greatest perhaps, since the days of Pontaic. His ruling maxim in war, was to take no prisoners, and he strictly adhered to the sanguin-

The American army had fifteen killed and thirty wounded.

General Proctor abandoned his army at the moment Johnson's regiment beat the charge. He was supported in his flight by about fifty dragoons. Some of the mounted men who pursued him were, at one time, within one hundred yards of him, but were too weak to attack his guard. His carriage and papers were taken. So rapid was his retreating journey, that, in twenty-four hours, he found himself sixty-five miles distant from the field of contest.

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any purposes of his soul—he neither gave nor accepted quarters. Yet, paradoxical as it may seem, to the prisoners made by other tribes, he was attentive and humane. Nay, in one instance, he is said to have buried his tomahawk in the head of a Chippeway chief, whom he found actively engaged in massacring some of Dudley's men, after they had been made prisoners by the British and Indians. It had long been a favourite maxim of this aspiring chief to unite the northern, western, and southern Indians for the purpose of regaining their country as far as the Ohio. Whether this grand idea originated in his own, or his brother's mind, or was suggested by the British, is not known, but this much is certain, he cherished the plan, with enthusiasm, and actually visited the Creek Indians to prevail on them to join in the undertaking. He was always opposed to the sale of the Indian lands.—In a council at Vincennes, in 1810, he was found equal to the insidious arts of a diplomatist. In one of his speeches he pronounced General Harrison a liar. He has been in almost every battle with the Americans from the time of Harmer's defeat to that of the Thames. He has been several times wounded, and always sought the hottest of the fire. A few minutes before he received the fatal fire of Colonel Johnson, he had received a musket ball in his

not very insidious thing

After this affair, a suspension of arms took place ; the Indians sued for peace ; and Governor Shelby's forces were discharged.

The patience and fortitude with which Colonel Johnson endured the anguish of his wounds, and the incredible fatigues, severities, and privations of his passage from Detroit to Sandusky, and from thence to Kentucky, surpassed, if possible, his courage on the field of battle. In the boisterous month of November, amid almost incessant rains—with five severe wounds which had barely begun to heal, he was conveyed from his lodgings

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left arm, yet his efforts to conquer ceased only with life. When a youth, and before the treaty of Greenville, he had so often signalized himself, that he was reputed one of the boldest of the Indian warriors. In the first settlement of Kentucky, he was peculiarly active in seizing boats going down the Ohio, killing the passengers and carrying off their property. He made frequent incursions into Kentucky, where he would invariably murder some of the settlers and escape with several horses, laden with plunder. He always eluded pursuit, and when too closely pressed, would retire to the Wabash. His ruling passion seems to have been glory—he was careless of wealth, and although his plunderings and subsidies must have amounted to a great sum, he preserved little for himself. After his fall on the fifth of October, his person was viewed with great interest by the officers and soldiers of Harrison's army. It was sometime before the identity of his person was sufficiently recognized to remove all doubts as to the certainty of his death. There was a kind of ferocious pleasure, if the expression may be allowed, in contemplating the contour of his features which was majestic, even in death. Some of the Kentuckians disgraced themselves by committing indignities on his dead body. He was scalped and otherwise disfigured.

in Detroit, to a boat but illy provided with hands and with scarcely a cover from the chilling storms of the season.

Finally, after ninety hours of unremitted exertion, the party arrived at Fort Stephenson—at midnight.

Here the boat was abandoned—and he was placed on a litter, suspended between two horses—the rains re-commenced, but the route was continued—a dreary wilderness, streams unfordable, bad roads, numerous rivers and a distance of 300 miles separated the party from Kentucky. Yet all these formidable impediments were overcome with inflexible perseverance and astonishing celerity.

After spending eight or ten weeks in Kentucky, he was so far recovered from his wounds, that he repaired to the seat of government, and resumed his seat in Congress. The fame of his exploits had preceded him; and he was every where received with distinguished testimonials of respect and admiration.

In a subsequent session of Congress he voted for the *Compensation Law*, which repealed that of allowing members of Congress \$6 per day and travelling expences, and commuted their services for a salary of \$1500 per annum; which was so unpopular that it was repealed the next session. This law was made a party question, but notwithstanding the strong opposition it afforded to Johnson's re-election, a recollection of past services produced his forgiveness for that vote, and he was again returned to a seat in the National Councils.

During the recess of Congress he devotes most of his time to agricultural pursuits—having for a number of years abandoned the practice of the law.

Colonel Johnson is in stature rather above the middle size, well formed, of a firm but prepossessing aspect; his words are few, but always expressed with grace and energy.

CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY.

THE "Hero of Lake Erie," was born at Newport, Rhode-Island, in August, 1785. In the disturbance between France and the United States, during the administration of President Adams, his father, Christopher Raymond Perry, commanded the United States' sloop of war General Greene, on board of which, in 1798, young Perry entered as a midshipman, under the immediate eye of his parent. He was, soon after, ordered to the squadron destined for the Mediterranean, in which he served during the Tripoline war. After affairs were adjusted with that regency, the tranquil state of things threw him in the vale of obscurity, until 1810, when he was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-commandant, and was ordered to take charge of the United States' schooner Revenge, and to cruise in Long-Island sound, for the purpose of enforcing an observance of the Embargo law.

In the following spring, he lost his vessel on Watch-hill reef, during the existence of a thick fog. He used every possible exertion to save the guns and property, and partially succeeded. A court of inquiry, instituted at his own desire, not only exonerated him from blame, but applauded his zeal, which was seconded by a complimentary letter from the Secretary of the Navy.

Shortly after his return to Newport, he was married to Miss Mason, daughter of Dr. Mason, and niece of Christopher Champlin, Esq. one of the Senators from Rhode-Island in the Congress of the United States.

He took charge of the flotilla of Gun-boats stationed in the harbour of New-York, early in 1812, with the rank of Master-commandant. Here he remained about a year, disciplining his crews. As war had begun its ravages between Great Britain and the United States, he sought a more active sphere; and, at his own request, he was transferred to the service on the Lakes.

In pursuance of this disposition of his services, he repaired with a reinforcement of seamen to Sackett's Harbour, on Lake Ontario, to act under Commodore Chauncey. The transportation of the seamen from the sea-board to the harbour, from its novelty to the sons of Neptune, afforded them the highest amusement, particularly as it was a "*land cruise*" in the depth of winter.

After remaining at Sackett's Harbour some time, Commodore Chauncey despatched Perry to take charge of the squadron then fitted and fitting out on lake Erie, and to hasten their equipments. At this time the British fleet on that lake, was commanded by Captain Barclay, an officer of high standing, rank, and skill, who had seen much service, and whose force was of superior strength to the American squadron.

Perry pursued his object unmolested by the enemy, who was continually hovering about the harbour. Having equipped and manned his vessels, he buoyed them over the bar, on which was only five feet water, at the harbour's mouth of the port of Erie, on the 4th of August, 1813. The enemy were peaceable spectators of the

scene. The next day he sailed in pursuit of them, and returned to port on the 8th, without accomplishing his object. The day following he was reinforced by several officers and eighty seamen under Lieutenant Elliot, which gave his squadron a full complement. He again sailed on the 12th, on a cruise, and on the 15th arrived at Sandusky-bay in front of an encampment of the American army, commanded by General Harrison. Thence he proceeded to cruise off Malden, and the British commander thought proper to hug his force for protection, close under the guns of the British fortifications. The inhabitants were filled with terror and consternation at the sight of the American squadron, and the astonished Indian allies of the British crown, urged the British squadron to put to sea, and give battle. They however felt themselves not disposed to risk an engagement; and Perry returned to Sandusky-bay.

Nothing of moment happened until the morning of the 10th of September. The American squadron were then lying at anchor in Put-in-Bay, and consisted of brigs Lawrence, Commodore Perry, 20 guns; Niagara, Capt. Elliot, 20 do; Caledonia, Purser M'Grath, 3 do; schooners Ariel, Lieut. Packet, 4 do; Scorpion, Sailing-Master Champ-
lin, 2 do; Somers, Almy, 2 do. and 2 swivels; Tigress, Lieutenant Conklin, 1 do; Porcupine, Midshipman G. Senat, 1 do; sloop Trippe, Lieutenant Smith, 1 do; in all 54 guns.

At sunrise they discovered the enemy, and immediately got under way and stood for him, with a light wind at southwest. The British force consisted of ship Detroit, 19 guns, 1 on pivot, and 2 howitzers; Queen Charlotte, 17 do. 1 on pivot; schooner Lady Prevost, 13 do. 1 on pivot; brig Hunter, 10 do; sloop Little Belt, 3 do; schooner Chippeway, 1 do. 2 swivels; in all 63 guns.

At 10, A. M. the wind hauled to the southeast and brought our squadron to windward. Commodore Perry then hoisted his union jack, having for a motto, the dying words of the valiant Lawrence, "Don't give up the ship!" It was received with repeated cheerings by the officers and crews. And now, having formed his line, he bore for the enemy; who likewise cleared for action, and hauled up his courses. As the hostile squadrons approached each other, suddenly a bugle was sounded from on board the enemy's ship Detroit, and loud huzzas immediately burst forth from all their crews.

As soon as the Lawrence came within the reach of the enemy's long guns, they opened a heavy fire upon her, which, from the shortness of her guns, she was unable to return. Perry, without waiting for his schooners, kept on his course which induced the enemy to suppose it was his intention to board. In a few minutes, having gained a nearer position, he opened his fire. The length of the enemy's guns, however, gave them greatly the advantage, and the Lawrence was excessively cut up without being able to do any great damage in return. Their shot pierced her sides in all directions, killing the men on the birth deck and in the steerage, where they had been taken down to be dressed. One shot had nearly produced a fatal explosion; passing through the light room it knocked the snuff of the candle into the magazine; fortunately the gunner happened to see it, and had the presence of mind to extinguish it immediately with his hand.

Their heaviest fire was directed at the Lawrence, and Perry finding the hazard of his situation made sail, and directed the other vessels to follow for the purpose of closing with the foe.

The tremendous fire, however, to which he was exposed, soon cut away every brace and bowline, and the *Lawrence* became unmanageable.

Even in this disastrous plight, she sustained the action for upwards of two hours, within canister distance, though for a great part of the time the *Lawrence* could not get more than three guns to bear upon her antagonist. It was admirable to behold the perfect order and regularity that prevailed among her valiant and devoted crew, throughout this scene of horror. No trepidation, no confusion occurred, even for an instant ; as fast as the men were wounded, they were carried below and others stepped into their places ; the dead remained where they fell until after the action. At this juncture the fortune of the battle trembled on a point, and the enemy believed the day their own. The *Lawrence* was reduced to a mere wreck ; her decks were streaming with blood, and covered with mangled limbs and the bodies of the slain ; nearly the whole of her crew was either killed or wounded ; her guns were dismounted, and the Commodore and his officers helped to work the last gun that was capable of being used.

Finding the *Lawrence* was incapable of further service, he gave his vessel in charge to Lieutenant Yarnall, who had already distinguished himself by his bravery, and hauled down his union, bearing the motto of *Lawrence*, and taking it under his arm, ordered it to be put on board of the *Niagara*, which was then in close engagement. In leaving the *Lawrence*, he gave his pilot choice either to remain on board, or accompany him ; the pilot replied, " he'd stick by him to the last," and jumped into the boat. Perry went off from the ship standing up in the stern of the boat, until the crew absolutely pulled him down among

them. Broadsides were levelled at him, and small arms discharged by the enemy, two of whose vessels were within musket shot, and a third one nearer. His shipmates who remained behind, stood watching him, in anxiety; the balls struck around him and flew over his head in every direction; but the same special providence that seems to have watched over the youthful hero throughout this desperate battle, conducted him safely through a shower of shot, and they beheld with transport his flag hoisted at the mast-head of the Niagara. No sooner was he on board, than Captain Elliot volunteered to put off in a boat and bring into action the schooners which had been kept astern by light wind; the offer was accepted, and Elliot left the Niagara to put it in execution.

About this time the flag of the Lawrence came down. The event was unavoidable; she had sustained the whole fury of the enemy, and was rendered incapable of defence; and further show of resistance would but have proved most useless and cruel carnage among the relics of her brave and mangled crew. The enemy, however, were not able to take possession of her, and subsequent circumstances enabled her again to hoist her flag.

Commodore Perry now made signal for close action and the small vessels got out their sweeps and made all sail. Finding that the Niagara was but little injured, he determined, if possible, to break the enemy's line. He accordingly bore up and passed ahead of the two ships and brig, giving them a raking fire from his starboard guns, and also to a large schooner and sloop from his larboard side, about half pistol shot distance.—Having passed the whole squadron, he luffed up and laid his ship along side the British Commo-

dore. The smaller vessels under the direction of Captain Elliot, having, in the mean time, got within grape and canister distance, and keeping up a well-directed fire, the whole of the enemy struck, excepting two small vessels, which attempted to escape, but were afterwards taken.

The engagement lasted about three hours, and never was victory more decisive and complete. The captured squadron, as has been shown, exceeded ours in weight of metal and number of guns. Their crews were also more numerous; the Americans were a motley collection, where there was some good seamen, but mixed with soldiers, volunteers and boys, and many were on the sick list. More prisoners were taken than we had men to guard. The loss on both sides was severe. Scarcely any of the Lawrence's crew escaped unhurt. Among those slain, was Lieut. Brooks of the marines, a gay and elegant young officer, full of spirit, of amiable manners, and remarkable for his personal beauty. Lieutenant Yarnall, though repeatedly wounded, refused to quit the deck, during the whole of the action.—Commodore Perry, notwithstanding that he was continually in the most exposed situations of the battle, escaped uninjured; he wore an ordinary seaman's dress, which, perhaps, prevented him from being picked off by the enemy's sharp shooters. He had a younger brother with him on board the Lawrence, as Midshipman, who was equally fortunate in receiving no injury, though his shipmates fell all around him. Two Indian chiefs had been stationed in the tops of the Detroit, but when the action became warm, so panic struck were they with the terrors of the scene, and the strange perils that surrounded them, that they fled precipitately to the hold of the ship, where they were

found after the battle in a state of utter consternation. The bodies of several other Indians were said to have been found the next day on the shores of the lake, supposed to have been slain during the engagement and thrown overboard.

The loss of the British in killed and wounded, was estimated at 160, and that of the Americans at 123. On board the British fleet, the Captain and first Lieutenant of the *Queen Charlotte* were killed. Commodore Barclay, of the *Lady Prevost*, was severely wounded and lost his hand—He, however, did himself honour by the brave and obstinate resistance which he made. He was a fine looking officer, then about thirty-six years of age. He has seen much service, having been desperately wounded in the battle of Trafalgar, and afterwards losing an arm in another engagement with the French. In the present battle he was twice carried below, on account of his wounds, and had the misfortune to have his remaining hand shot away. While below, the second time, his officer came down and told him that they must strike, as the ships were cut to pieces, and the men could not be kept to their guns. Commodore Barclay was then carried on deck, and after taking a view of their situation, and finding all chance of success was over, reluctantly gave orders to strike.

In the course of the action, Perry noticed a prime and favourite sailor, who was Captain of one of the guns, very much embarrassed with his piece, which, in consequence of the firelock being broken, was rather unmanageable and rebounded. Perry approached him, and in an encouraging manner, asked him "what is the matter." The honest tar, who had been showing signs of infinite vexation, turned round, and, as if speaking of a

mistress, exclaimed reproachfully, "sir, my gun behaves shamefully!" He then levelled, and having taken aim, raised up and squared himself, when suddenly a cannon ball struck him in the breast, passed through him and he fell dead without a groan!

Lieutenant Yarnall, of the *Lawrence*, behaved throughout with great bravery and coolness. He was dressed as a common seaman, a red bandana handkerchief was tied round his neck, and another round his head, to stanch two wounds which he had received. From these, the blood trickled down his face, and a splinter having passed through his nose, it had swelled to a hideous magnitude. In this frightful plight, looking like the very genius of carnage and ill-luck, he came up to Perry, in the hottest and bloodiest of the fight, and announced to him that all the officers of his division were killed. Perry ordered others in their place. Shortly after, Yarnall returned with a repetition of the dismal tidings that all the officers were shot down! Then sir, said Perry, "you must endeavour to make out by yourself, I have no more to furnish you with."

Soon after the victory on lake Erie, the President of the United States appointed Oliver H. Perry to the rank of Captain in the Navy.

The Commodore was presented with the freedom of the cities of New-York and Albany.

The thanks of Congress were voted to the Commodore, his officers, seamen and marines; and medals were presented to him and his officers.

The thanks of the Senate of Pennsylvania, with medals, also were voted to the Commodore, and those brave men who served under him.

Rejoicings, illuminations, and bon-fires, were exhibited through all parts of the United States.

The capture of the British fleet removed the chief object to the capture of Malden; and General Harrison made dispositions to avail himself of it. Boats were collected, and troops assembled. Governor Shelby arrived on the 17th of September, at the mouth of Portage river, with about 4000 volunteers. General M'Arthur joined the army in three days after, with his brigade from fort Meigs. On the 21st, the embarkation of troops commenced. Put-in-bay Island was the place of rendezvous. Commodore Perry's fleet, including the captured vessels, were engaged in protecting and assisting the men and boats, as well as in conveying stores, baggage, &c. The army again embarked on board the fleet and boats at Put-in-bay, on the 25th, and arrived the same evening at the Eastern Sister, a small island about sixteen miles from Malden. Here the expedition was detained some time by bad weather, during which time, a reconnoissance of the enemy's coast was made by General Harrison, and Commodore Perry; a despatch was also sent to apprise Colonel Johnson of their movements, who, with his mounted rangers, was to co-operate in the reduction of Malden.

On the 27th, the army embarked at the Eastern Sister, and landed near Malden, in excellent order. The enemy having previously evacuated the town, it was entered by the Americans without opposition.

After the capture of Malden, Perry acted as a volunteer-aid to General Harrison, in his pursuit of the British, on the river Thames, and was present at the battle of Moravian town, on the fifth of October. When the British presented a formidable force for the invasion of Maryland and Virginia, and proceeded to the conflagration of

the public works, at the city of Washington, he commanded a body of seamen and marines on the Potomac. He was, afterwards, appointed to command the Java frigate, built at Baltimore; and after the conclusion of peace with Great Britain, sailed in 1815, as one of the squadron under Commodore Decatur, sent to the Mediterranean to settle affairs between the United States and Algiers. While in that sea, some difference arose between him and Mr. Heath, commandant of Marines on board his ship. This led to a court-martial, the result of which, subjected both these officers to a private reprimand from Commodore Chauncey. Captain Heath not being appeased, laid his grievances before the public in a pamphlet, after his return to the United States, and was about the same time appointed to a Consulate by the government. Perry returned with the squadron to the United States. This affair produced a duel between the parties, Captain Heath's fire did not take effect. Commodore Perry discharged his pistol in the air and the quarrel terminated. The meeting took place in New-Jersey, opposite to New-York, in the summer of 1818.

CAPTAIN

JACOB JONES.

JACOB JONES, was born about the year 1770, near the village of Smyrna, in the county of Kent, in the State of Delaware. His father was an independent and respectable farmer. His mother, of the name of Jones, was an amiable and interesting woman. She died when the subject of this memoir was yet an infant. Between two and three years afterwards, his father married again, with a Miss Holt, grand-daughter of the honourable Ryves Holt, formerly Chief Justice of the Su-

preme Court of Delaware. Shortly after this second marriage, his father died, when this his only child was scarcely four years of age. It was his good fortune to be left under the care of a good step-mother. By her he was nurtured from infancy to manhood, with maternal care and tenderness. At an early age, he was placed at school, and his proficiency in learning was equal to her most anxious wishes. After becoming well acquainted with the general branches of an English education, he was transferred to a grammar school at Lewes, in Sussex county, conducted by Doctor Matthew Wilson. Under his direction he read the classics with much assiduity, and became well acquainted with the Latin and Greek languages. In the geographical lessons he continually bore off the palm, and received repeated proofs of approbation from his preceptor. At the age of eighteen, he left Lewes academy, and commenced the study of physic and surgery, under Doctor Sykes, an eminent physician and surgeon of Dover, in the county of Kent. With him he diligently prosecuted his studies for four years, after which he attended the usual courses of medical lectures of the University of Pennsylvania, and then returned to Dover to commence the exercise of his profession.

He did not, however, continue long in the practice. Discouraged by the scanty employment that is commonly the lot of the young physician, and impatient of an inactive life, he determined to abandon the profession and seek some more productive occupation. This resolution was a matter of much regret among the elder physicians. They entertained a high opinion of his medical acquirements, and considered him as promising to become a distinguished and skilful member of

their body. Governor Clayton (who was himself an eminent physician) seeing that he was fixed in his determination, conferred upon him the clerkship of the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware for the county of Kent.

In this office he continued for some time, but the sedentary nature of its duties was uncongenial with his health and habits; he longed to mingle in more active scenes, and consequently entered a midshipman, in the year 1799, when the disturbance with France took place. He was then almost twenty-nine years of age, highly respected for the solidity of his understanding and his varied acquirements. His friends were dissatisfied at seeing him taking a retrograde step in life, and accepting a grade which is generally allotted to boys and striplings. It was in vain, however, to remonstrate against his resolve, from which, once formed, he never deviated. Determined on embracing the profession, he had weighed all its inconveniences and sacrifices, and had resolved to encounter and surmount them all. His friends could only console themselves with the reflection, that, if courage, activity, and hardihood, could ensure naval success, Jones was peculiarly fitted for the life he had embraced.

The first cruises which he made, were under the late Commodore Barry, from which he derived much instruction in the theory and practice of his profession, and experienced the utmost kindness and civility. He was a midshipman on board the frigate *United States*, when she bore to France, Chief Justice Ellsworth and General Davie, as Envoys Extraordinary to the French Republic. He was next on board of the *Gangee* as midshipman, and during the whole intervening period between his appointment and the war with Trip-

oli, he was sedulously employed in obtaining that nautical skill for which he is celebrated.

On the breaking out of the war with Tripoli, he was stationed on board of the frigate Philadelphia, under the command of Commodore Bainbridge. Twenty months of severe captivity among a barbarous people, and in a noxious climate, neither broke his spirit nor impaired his constitution. When relieved from bondage by the bravery of his countrymen, he returned home full of life and ardour. He was soon after promoted to a lieutenancy. This grade he had merited before his confinement in Tripoli, but older warrant officers had stood in the way of his preferment.

He was now for some time employed on the Orleans station, where he conducted himself with judgment and propriety. He was shortly after appointed to the command of the brig Argus, stationed for the protection of our commerce on the Southern maritime frontier. In this situation he acted with vigilance and fidelity, and though there were at one time insidious suggestions to the contrary, it has appeared that he conformed to his instructions, promoted the public interest, and gave entire satisfaction to the government.

In 1811, Captain Jones was transferred by the Secretary of the Navy to the command of the sloop of war Wasp, mounting eighteen twenty-four pound carronades, and was despatched, in the spring of 1812, with communications from our government to its ministers at the courts of St. Cloud and St. James. Before he returned, war had been declared by the United States against Great Britain. Captain Jones refitted his ship with all possible despatch, and repaired to sea on a cruise, in which he met with no other luck than

the capture of an inconsiderable prize.—He again put to sea on the 13th of October, and on the 18th of the month, after a long and heavy gale, he fell in with a number of strongly armed merchantmen under convoy of his Britannic Majesty's sloop of war the *Frolic*, Captain Whinyates.

As this engagement has been one of the most decidedly honourable to the American flag, from the superior force of the enemy; and as the British writers in endeavouring to account for our successes, and to undervalue our victories, have studiously passed this battle over in silence, and seemed anxious to elbow it into oblivion, this occasion is taken to republish a full and particular account of it, which we have every reason to believe is scrupulously correct:—

There was a heavy swell in the sea, and the weather was boisterous. The topgallant-yards of the *Wasp* were taken down, her topsails were close reefed, and she was prepared for action, About 11 o'clock, the *Frolic* showed Spanish colours, and the *Wasp* immediately displayed the American ensign and pendant. At thirty-two minutes past eleven, the *Wasp* came down to windward on her larboard side, within about sixty yards, and hailed. The enemy hauled down the Spanish colours, hoisted the British ensign, and opened a fire of cannon and musketry. This the *Wasp* instantly returned; and coming nearer to the enemy, the action became close, and without intermission. In four or five minutes, the maintopmast of the *Wasp* was shot away, and, falling down with the maintopsail yard across the larboard fore and fore-topsail braces, rendered her head yards unmanageable during the rest of the action. In two or three minutes more, her

gaft and mizen-topgallant-sail were shot away. Still she continued a close and constant fire. The sea was so rough that the muzzles of the Wasp's guns were frequently in the water. The Americans, therefore, fired as the ship's side was going down, so that their shot went either on the enemy's deck or below it, while the English fired as the vessel rose, and thus her balls chiefly touched the rigging or were thrown away. The Wasp now shot ahead of the Frolic, raked her, and then resumed her position on her larboard bow. Her fire was now obviously attended with such success, and that of the Frolic so slackened, that Captain Jones did not wish to board her, lest the roughness of the sea might endanger both vessels; but, in the course of a few minutes more, every brace of the Wasp, was shot away, and her rigging so much torn to pieces, that he was afraid that his masts, being unsupported, would go by the board, and the Frolic be able to escape. He thought, therefore, the best chance of securing her was to board, and decide the contest at once. With this view he wore ship, and running down upon the enemy, the vessels struck each other, the Wasp's side rubbing along the Frolic's bow, so that her jib-boom came in between the main and mizen rigging of the Wasp, directly over the heads of Captain Jones and the first Lieutenant, Mr. Biddle, who were at that moment standing together near the capstan. The Frolic lay so fair for raking, that they decided not to board until they had given a closing broadside. Whilst they were loading for this, so near were the two vessels, that the rammers of the Wasp were pushed against the Frolic's sides, and two of her guns went through the bow ports of the Frolic, and swept the whole length of her deck. At this

moment John Lang,* a seaman of the Wasp, a gallant fellow who had been once impressed by a British man of war, jumped on a gun with his cutlass, and was springing on board the Frolic : Captain Jones, wishing to fire again before boarding called him down, but his impetuosity could not be restrained, and he was already on the bowsprit of the Frolic : when seeing the ardour and enthusiasm of the Wasp's crew, Lieutenant Biddle mounted on the hammock cloth to board, At this signal the crew followed, but Lieutenant Biddle's feet got entangled in the rigging of the enemy's bowsprit, and Midshipman Baker, in his ardour to get on board, laying hold of his coat, he fell back on the Wasp's deck. He sprang up, and as the next swell of the sea brought the Frolic nearer, he got on her bowsprit, where Lang and another seaman were already. He passed them on the forecastle, and was surprised at seeing not a single man alive on the Frolic's deck, except the seamen at the wheel, and three officers. The deck was slippery with blood, and strewed with the bodies of the dead. As he went forward, the Captain of the Frolic, with two other officers who were standing on the quarter deck, threw down their swords, and made an inclination of their bodies, denoting that they had surrendered. At this moment, the colours were still flying, as, probably, none of the seamen of the Frolic would dare to go into the rigging, for fear of the musketry of the Wasp. Lieuten-

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* John Lang is a native of New-Brunswick, in New-Jersey. We mention with great pleasure, the name of this brave American seaman, as a proof that conspicuous valour is confined to no rank in the naval service.

ant Biddle, therefore, jumped into the rigging himself, and hauled down the British ensign, and possession was taken of the Frolic in forty-three minutes after the first fire. She was in a shocking condition; the birth-deck, particularly, was crowded with dead, and wounded, and dying; there being but a small proportion of the Frolic's crew who had escaped. Captain Jones instantly sent on board his Surgeon's mate; and all the blankets of the Frolic were brought from her slop-room for the comfort of the wounded. To increase this confusion, both the Frolic's masts soon fell, covering the dead and every thing on deck, and she lay a complete wreck.

It now appeared that the Frolic mounted sixteen thirty-two pound carronades, four twelve-pounders on the main-deck, and two twelve-pound carronades. She was, therefore, superior to the Wasp, by exactly four twelve-pounders. The number of men on board, as stated by the officers of the Frolic, was one hundred and ten—the number of seamen on board the Wasp was one hundred and two; but it could not be ascertained, whether in this one hundred and ten, were included the marines and officers; for the Wasp had besides her one hundred and two men, officers and marines, making the whole crew about one hundred and thirty-five. What is however, decisive, as to their comparative force is, that the officers of the Frolic acknowledged that they had as many men as they knew what to do with, and in fact the Wasp could have spared fifteen men. There was, therefore, on the most favourable view, at least an equality of men, and an inequality of four guns. The disparity of loss was much greater. The exact number of killed and wounded on board the Frolic could not be pre-

cisely determined; but from the observations of our officers, and the declarations of those of the *Frolic*, the number could not be less than about thirty killed, including two officers, and of the wounded between forty and fifty, the Captain and second Lieutenant being of the number. The *Wasp* had five men killed and five slightly wounded.

All hands were now employed in clearing the deck, burying the dead, and taking care of the wounded, when Captain Jones sent orders to Lieutenant Biddle to proceed to Charleston, or any Southern port of the United States; and as there was a suspicious sail to windward, the *Wasp* would continue her cruise. The ships then parted. The suspicious sail was now coming down very fast. At first it was supposed that she was one of the convoy, who had all fled during the engagement, and who now came for the purpose of attacking the prize. The guns of the *Frolic* were therefore loaded, and the ship cleared for action; but the enemy, as she advanced, proved to be a seventy-four—the *Poictiers*, Captain Berresford. She fired a shot over the *Frolic*; passed her; overtook the *Wasp*, the disabled state of whose rigging prevented her from escaping; and then returned to the *Frolic*, who could of course make no resistance. The *Wasp* and *Frolic* were carried into Bermuda.

On the return of Captain Jones to the United States, he was every where received with the utmost demonstrations of gratitude and admiration. Brilliant entertainments were given him in the cities through which he passed. The Legislature of his native state appointed a committee to wait on him with their thanks, and to express the "pride and pleasure" they felt in recognising

him as a native of their state : in the same resolution they voted him an elegant piece of plate, with appropriate engravings. The Congress of the United States, on motion of Mr. J. A. Bayard, of Delaware, appropriated 25,000 dollars, as a compensation to Captain Jones and his crew, for the loss they sustained by the re-capture of the *Frolic*. They also ordered a gold medal to be presented to the Captain, and a silver one to each of his Officers.

Various other marks of honour were paid by the Legislatures and Citizens of different States ; but the most substantial testimony of approbation which he received, was the appointment to the command of the frigate *Macedonian*, captured from the British.

The war having been concluded by the treaty of Ghent, a short respite from the thunder of cannon only was left him ; for in the summer of 1815, in this ship he sailed under Commodore Bainbridge, in the squadron that followed Decatur's to the Mediterranean, to curb the insolence of the Dey of Algiers.

When the squadron arrived in that sea, its officers were mortified to find themselves deprived of their expected honours, by the treaty previously effected by Decatur with that power, and the pacific demeanour of the others before its arrival. Taking the circuit of that sea, the squadron, finding affairs in a favourable state, returned to the United States, at Newport, Rhode-Island, on the 15th of November, 1815, where it may be left until the wrongs of their country call them to more splendid actions than those springing from the torpor of peace.

Captain Jones is about the middle size, of an active mind and vigorous make, and an excellent



Stuart p.^t

Gimbrede sc.

COM. STEPHEN DECATUR.

Engraved for the Biography of American Heroes.

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constitution, capable of the utmost vigilance and fatigue. Naturally and habitually temperate himself, he is a great promoter of temperance among his crew ; and has been successful in reclaiming many a valuable seaman from the pernicious habits of intoxication.



COMODORE

STEPHEN DECATUR.

THIS gentleman is of French descent, by the male line. His grandfather was a native of La Rochelle, in France ; he emigrated to this country with other Hugonots, who fled from the persecutions of Lewis XIV, at the repeal of the edict of Nantz, and married a lady of Rhode-Island. His father, Stephen Decatur, was born at Newport, Rhode-Island, and when a very young man removed to Philadelphia, where he married the daughter of an Irish gentleman by the name of Pine. He was bred to the sea, and commanded a merchant vessel out of the port of Philadelphia until the establishment of the Navy, when he was appointed to command the Delaware sloop of war. He continued in her until the frigate Philadelphia was built, when the command of that ship was given to him, at the particular request of the merchants who had built her by subscription. In this situation he remained until peace was made with France, when he resigned his commission, and retired to his residence a few miles from Philadelphia, where he resided until his death which happened in November, 1808.

His son, Stephen Decatur, the present Com-

modore, was born on the 5th January, 1779. on the eastern shore of Maryland, whither his parents had retired, whilst the British were in possession of Philadelphia. They returned to that city when he was a few months old, and he was there educated and brought up.

He received a midshipman's warrant in March, 1798, and joined the frigate *United States*, under the command of Commodore Barry, who had obtained it for him. He continued for some time with that officer, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. The *United States* at that time requiring some repairs, he requested an order to join the brig *Norfolk*, then bound to the Spanish Main. He performed one cruise in her as first Lieutenant, and then resumed his station on board of the *United States*, where he remained until the affairs with France were settled.

He was then ordered to the *Essex*, as first Lieutenant, and sailed with Commodore Dale's squadron to the Mediterranean. On its return he was ordered to the *New-York*, one of the second Mediterranean squadron, under the command of Commodore Morris.

When he returned to the *United States* he was ordered to take command of the *Argus*, and proceeded in her to join Commodore Preble's squadron, then in the Mediterranean, and on his arrival there, to resign the command of the *Argus* to Lieutenant Hull, and take the schooner *Enterprise*, then commanded by that officer. After making that exchange, he proceeded to Syracuse, where the squadron was to rendezvous. On his arrival at that port he was informed of the fate of the frigate *Philadelphia*, which had run aground on the Barbary coast, and had fallen into the hands of the Tripolitans. The idea immediately

presented itself to his mind of attempting her recapture or destruction. On Commodore Preble's arrival, a few days afterwards, he proposed to him a plan for the purpose, and volunteered his services to execute it. That officer at first disapproved of an enterprise so full of peril; but the risks and difficulties that surrounded it, only stimulated the ardour of Decatur, and imparted to it an air of adventure, fascinating to his imagination.

The consent of the Commodore having been obtained, Lieutenant Decatur selected for the expedition the ketch *Intrepid*, which he had captured a few weeks before from the enemy, and manned her with seventy volunteers, mostly his own crew. He sailed from Syracuse, on the third of February, 1804, accompanied by the United States' brig *Syren*, Lieutenant Stewart, who was to aid with his boats and to receive the crew of the ketch, in case it should be found expedient to use her as a fire-ship.

After fifteen days of very tempestuous weather they arrived off Tripoli a little before sunset. It had been arranged between Lieutenants Decatur, and Stewart, that the ketch should enter the harbour about ten o'clock that night, attended by the boats of the *Syren*. On arriving off the port, the *Syren* in consequence of a change of wind, had been thrown six or eight miles without the *Intrepid*. The wind at this time was fair, but fast declining, and Lieutenant Decatur apprehended that, should he wait for the *Syren's* boats to come up, it might be too late to make the attack that night. Such delay might be fatal to the enterprise, as they could not remain longer on the coast, their provisions being nearly exhausted. For these reasons he determined to adventure

into the harbour alone, which he did about eight o'clock.

An idea may be formed of the extreme hazard of this enterprise from the situation of the frigate. She was moored within half gun shot of the Bashaw's castle, and of the principal battery. Two of the enemy's cruizers, lay within two cables' length, on the starboard quarter, and their gun-boats within half gun-shot on the starboard bow. All the guns of the frigate were mounted and loaded. Such were the immediate perils that he ventured to encounter with a single ketch, beside the other dangers that abound in that strongly fortified harbour.

Although from the entrance to the place where the frigate lay was only three miles, yet in consequence of the lightness of the wind, they did not get within hail of her until eleven o'clock. When they had approached within two hundred yards, they were hailed and ordered to anchor, or they would be fired into. Lieutenant Decatur ordered a Maltese pilot, who was on board the ketch, to answer that they had lost their anchors in a gale of wind on the coast, and therefore could not comply with their request. By this time it had become perfectly calm, and they were about fifty yards from the frigate. Lieutenant Decatur ordered a small boat that was alongside of the ketch, to take a rope and make it fast to the frigates fore-chains. This being done they began to warp the ketch alongside. It was not until this moment that the enemy suspected the character of their visitor, and great confusion immediately ensued. This enabled our adventurers to get alongside of the frigate, when Decatur immediately sprang aboard, followed by Mr. Charles Morris, midshipman. These two were nearly a minute on the

deck before their companions could succeed in mounting the side. Fortunately, the Turks had not sufficiently recovered from their surprise to take advantage of this delay. They were crowded together on the quarter-deck, perfectly astonished and aghast, without making any attempt to oppose the assailing party. As soon as a sufficient number of his men had gained the deck, to form a front equal to that of the enemy, they rushed in upon them. The Turks stood the assault but a short time, and were completely overpowered. About twenty were killed on the spot, many jumped overboard, and the rest fled to the main deck, whither they were pursued and driven to the hold.

After entire possession had been gained of the ship, and every thing prepared to set fire to her, a number of launches were seen rowing about the harbour. This determined Lieutenant Decatur to remain in the frigate, from whence a better defence could be made than from on board the ketch. The enemy, had already commenced firing upon them from their batteries and castle, and from two corsairs that were lying near. Perceiving that the launches did not attempt to approach, he ordered that the ship should be set on fire, which was done, at the same time, in different parts. As soon as this was completely effected, they left her, and such was the rapidity of the flames, that it was with the utmost difficulty they preserved the ketch. At this critical moment, a most propitious breeze sprang up, blowing directly out of the harbour, which, in a few moments carried them beyond the reach of the enemy's guns, and they made good their retreat without the loss of a single man, and with but four wounded.

For this gallant and romantic achievement, Lieu-

tenant Decatur was made post-captain, there being no intermediate grade. This promotion was done with the consent of the officers over whose heads he was raised.

In the ensuing spring, it being determined to make an attack upon Tripoli, Commodore Preble obtained from the king of Naples the loan of six gun-boats and two bombards, which he formed into two divisions, and gave the command of one of them to Captain Decatur, the other to Lieutenant Somers. The squadron sailed from Syracuse, consisting of the frigate *Constitution*, the brig *Syren*, the schooners *Nautilus* and *Vixen*, and the gun-boats.

Having arrived on the coast of Barbary, they were for some days prevented from making the attack, by adverse wind and weather, at length, on the morning of the 2d of August, the weather being favourable, the signal was made from the Commodore's ship to prepare for action, the light vessels towing the gun-boats to windward. At nine o'clock the signal was made for bombarding the town and the enemy's vessels. The gun boats were cast off, and advanced in a line ahead, led on by Captain Decatur, and covered by the frigate *Constitution*, and the brigs and schooners. The enemy's gun boats were moored along the mouth of the harbour under the batteries, and within musket shot. Their sails had been taken away from them, and they were ordered to sink rather than abandon their position. They were aided and covered likewise by a brig of 16 and a schooner of 10 guns.

Before entering into close action, Captain Decatur went along side each of his boats, and ordered them to unship their bowsprits and follow him, as it was his intention to follow the enemy's boats.

Lieutenant James Decatur commanded one of the boats belonging to Lieutenant Somers' division, but being further to windward than the rest of his division, he joined and took orders from his brother.

When Captain Decatur, who was in the leading boat, came within range of the fire from the batteries, a heavy fire was opened upon him from them and from the gun-boats. He returned their fire, and continued advancing until he came in contact with the boats. At this time Commodore Preble seeing Decatur approaching nearer than he thought prudent, ordered the signal to be made for a retreat, but it was found that in making out signals for the boats, one for a retreat had been omitted.—The enemy's boats had about forty men each; his an equal number, twenty-seven of whom were American and thirteen Neapolitans. Decatur on boarding the enemy was instantly followed by his countrymen, but the Neapolitans remained behind. The Turks did not sustain the combat, hand to hand, with that firmness they had gained a reputation for: in ten minutes the deck was cleared; eight of them sought refuge in the hold; and of the rest some fell on the deck, and others jumped into the sea. Only three of the Americans were wounded.

As Decatur was about to proceed out with his prize, the boat which had been commanded by his brother came under his stern, and informed him that they had engaged and captured one of the enemy; but that her Commander, after surrendering, had treacherously shot Lieutenant James Decatur, and pushed off with the boat, and was then making for the harbour.

The feelings of the gallant Decatur, on receiving this intelligence, may more easily be imagined

than described. Every consideration of prudence and safety was lost in his eagerness to punish so dastardly an act, and to avenge the death of a brother so basely murdered. He pushed within the enemy's line with his single boat, and having succeeded in getting alongside his retreating foe, boarded her at the head of eleven men who were all the Americans he had left.

The fate of this contest was extremely doubtful for twenty minutes. All the Americans except four were now severely wounded. Decatur now singled out the Commander as the peculiar object of his vengeance. The Turk was armed with an esponton, Decatur with a cutlass; attempting to cut off the head of the weapon, his sword struck on the iron and broke close to the hilt. The Turk at this moment made a push, which slightly wounded him in the right arm and breast. He immediately seized the spear and closed with him. A fierce struggle ensued, and both fell, Decatur uppermost. By this time the Turk had drawn a dagger from his belt, and was about to plunge it in the body of his foe, when Decatur caught his arm, and shot him with a pistol, which he had taken from his pocket. During the time they were struggling on the deck, the crews rushed to the aid of their commanders, and a most sanguinary conflict took place, insomuch that when Decatur had despatched his adversary, it was with the greatest difficulty he could extricate himself from the killed and wounded that had fallen around him.

During the early part of Decatur's struggle with the Turk, he was assailed in the rear by one of the enemy, who had just aimed a blow at his head with his sabre, that must have been fatal; at this fearful juncture, a sailor, who had been so

badly wounded as to lose the use of his hands, seeing no other means of saving his Commander, rushed between him and the unlifted sabre, and received the blow on his own head, which fractured his skull. This generous fellow survived, and now receives a pension from government.

Decatur succeeded in getting with both of his prizes to the squadron, and the next day received the highest commendation, in a general order, from Commodore Preble. When that able officer was superseded in the command of the squadron, he gave the *Constitution* to Captain Decatur, who had some time before, received his commission.—From that ship he was removed to the *Congress*, and returned home in her when peace was concluded with Tripoli. On his return to the United States, he was employed in superintending gun-boats, until the affair of the *Chesapeake*, when he was ordered to supersede Commodore Barron in the command of that ship, since which period he has had the command of the southern squadron. When the United States was again put in commission, he was removed from the *Chesapeake* to that frigate.

The late war with Great Britain gave Commodore Decatur another opportunity of adding to the laurels he had won. On the 25th October, 1812, in lat. 29, N. long. 29 30 W. he fell in with his Britannic Majesty's ship *Macedonian*, mounting 49 carriage guns. This was one of the finest frigates in the British navy, and commanded by Captain S. Carden, one of the ablest officers.—She was in prime order, two years old, and but four months out of dock. The enemy being to windward, had the advantage of choosing his own distance; and, supposing the United States to be the *Essex*, (which only mounted carronades,)

kept at first at long shot, and did not at any moment come within the complete effect of the musketry and grape. After the frigates had come to close action, the battle was terminated in a very short period by the enemy's surrender. The whole engagement lasted for an hour and a half, being prolonged by the distance at which the early part of it was fought, and by a heavy swell of the sea. The superior gunnery of the Americans was apparent in this as in all their other actions. The Macedonian lost her mizen-mast, fore and main top-masts and main yard, and was much cut in the hull. Her loss was thirty-six killed, and thirty-eight wounded. The damage of the United States was comparatively trivial, four killed and seven wounded : and she suffered so little in her hull and rigging, that she might have continued her cruise, had not Commodore Decatur thought it important to convoy his prize into port. His reception of Captain Carden on board of the United States was truly characteristic. On presenting his sword, Decatur observed that he could not think of taking the sword of an officer who had defended his ship so gallantly, but he should be happy to take him by the hand.

Commodore Decatur convoyed his prize, in her shattered condition, across a vast extent of ocean, swarming with foes, and conducted her triumphantly into port ; thus placing immediately before the eyes of his countrymen a noble trophy of skill and national prowess.

The crew of the United States, on deck, were amused at this time, by an odd occurrence. An old negro on board this ship, who had formerly sailed under Carden, and had frequently heard him express a wish to meet in contest a Yankee ship of war, had posted himself at the companion

door, and as Captain Decatur was escorting his captive guest to the cabin, the old negro accosted the captain of the Macedonian with "*Egad, massa, you glad you see Yankee now.*" It was with much ado that the Commodore could restrain the visible muscles of his countenance. He ordered the black to begone, and the old fellow went off continuing the repetition of the odd *phrase*, to the no small amusement of the American tars who had just achieved this conquest.

After the action, the Macedonian was brought into Newport, (R. I.) under the command of Lieutenant William H. Allen, where she was partially repaired. From Newport, she proceeded to New-York, where the command was given to Captain Jacob Jones, and that of the Argus to Mr. Allen. The United States had previously arrived at that port, and both ships were put in a condition to proceed to sea. Accordingly, in the latter part of the month of May, 1813, they, in company with the Hornet, sloop of war, Lieutenant Biddle, sailed from New-York, down Long-Island sound, for the purpose of avoiding the British squadron off New-York, and proceeding to sea by the east end of Long-Island. On the first of June, the appearance off Montaug point, of a seventy-four, two frigates, and some other vessels, part of a large British force, then in the vicinity, in a hostile attitude, induced Commodore Decatur to put into New-London harbour; the British squadron following closely, but without effect. In the evening, the ships were drawn up abreast of New-London fort, extending across the harbour; the United States in the centre, the Macedonian on the right, and the Hornet on the left, in expectation of an attack. For a long time, the squadron remained in the harbour of New-London,

vigilantly blockaded by a British force under the command of Sir Thomas Hardy, of the *Ramilies*, 74, composed from time to time, of different ships and subsequently under different commanders. Attempts were made by the one party to escape, and demonstrations were exhibited by the other, of attack ; but after the removal of the former, to an interior and safer place, the intention of escaping, and the expectation of attack, no longer existed. Although, during this blockade, the objects for which the squadron was equipped, were rendered hopeless, yet the masterly dispositions of the Commodore, forbade all apprehensions for its safety, and although much had been expected, from such a force, under such commanders, yet, the spirit of the country was not depressed by the disappointment, nor was the well earned reputation of those officers impaired, by an event, which was justly considered to be unavoidable. The government of the United States, unwilling to employ the activity and talents of Commodore Decatur, in merely superintending an inactive, and comparatively secure portion of its Navy, appointed him to the ship *President*, recently under the command of Commodore Rogers, and then at New-York. In this situation, Commodore Decatur was still watched, but under circumstances which favoured the hope of bringing his powers into action.

On the fourteenth day of January, 1815, it was supposed that the opportunity long waited for, of giving scope to the capabilities of the ship *President*, and exercise to the talents of her commander, presented itself. She got under way in the morning, and anchored again within the Hook. After getting again under way, she struck the ground, injured her false keel, and sustained other

damage : but being still tight, she stood away to the eastward, with a stiff breeze from the north-west. At five o'clock in the morning of the fifteenth, a large sail was discovered, nearly ahead; the ship immediately hauled up in the wind, when three more sail were discovered, in chase. At day-light, the nearest ship, which was a razee, commenced firing from her bow gun, but without effect, the shot falling short; and it was soon found that the President had distanced the razee. The wind at this time growing light, the other ships evidently gained on her, particularly one ship, a heavy frigate, neared her fast. As the only alternative, the Commodore ordered the ship to be lightened; provision were thrown overboard, water started, and every exertion made, that could facilitate her sailing; and the sails kept constantly wet. At ten o'clock another sail appeared, on the weather beam; she was a sloop of war, and was standing down for the President. At three o'clock the nearest ship had got within gun-shot, and commenced, and kept up a constant fire, from her bow guns, which was immediately returned, but with little effect on either side, there being a high irregular sea. Every hope of escape, as the wind then was, without coming to close action, had vanished. The gallant Commodore then conceived the bold design, of closing and boarding the enemy; the boarders were called, and all hands greeted him with three hearty cheers.

“ It was truly astonishing (says an eye-witness on board) to see the cool, deliberate courage and cheerfulness, that prevailed among the officers and crew, in the face of an enemy more than four times their force. From this you may conceive what we would have done, had we any thing like

an equal force to contend with. Every arrangement was now made, to close with the leading ship, which had at this time ranged up nearly within pistol shot; our brave Commodore placing himself at the head of the boarders. At 5 P. M. we wore short round, with the intention of laying him on board—but, as if he had anticipated our design, he immediately wore, and hauled to the wind, fearing to close, although the whole squadron were coming up fast: he having the wind, it was impossible to close for boarding; we then opened our fire, and in fifteen minutes his sails were very much cut up; both ships now falling off, continued engaging before the wind, for an hour and a half; in which time his spars, sails and rigging were literally cut to pieces, and his fire nearly silenced, only firing single guns at long intervals. We now quit him, and in hauling up, had to expose ourselves to a raking fire, but he was so much cut up that he could not avail himself of the advantage, and only fired three or four shot; we then, astonishing to relate, went out of action with every sail set, and soon left our antagonist out of sight. We were now going off, with every thing set, our damage but trifling; sails all wet again, and began almost to flatter ourselves on the probability of escaping. Had thick weather set in, of which there was every appearance, no doubt but we should have succeeded—on the contrary it continued fine, and the three other ships plainly discernible, making their night signals, two in particular, nearing us fast, as the concussion of our guns had destroyed the wind, whereas they were bringing up the breeze with them.

“About two hours from the time we left the ship we had engaged, one of the enemy had approached within half gun shot, the other taking a raking

position ; being now assailed by so superior a force, without any probability of escape, our brave Commodore with great reluctance, being dictated by motives of humanity, ordered a signal of surrender to be made ; notwithstanding, they continued to fire into us for more than fifteen minutes, through mistake. We were now taken possession of by the *Pomone* and *Tenedos* of 38. and *Majestic* razee of 62 guns ; and found the ship we had engaged was the *Endymion*, mounting 51 guns, long 24 pounders on her gun deck. Our loss, as you may suppose from the length of the action, was very great ; as near as I could learn, we had twenty-four killed and fifty-four wounded. Commodore Decatur received a severe contusion on the breast. Among our killed, were our first, fourth, and fifth lieutenants. The first, Mr. Babbit, was killed early in the action ; he was an officer of the greatest merit and bravery, in whom the service has lost one of its brightest ornaments. Messrs. Hamilton and Howell were also officers of great merit. Among the wounded, was the master, and one midshipman,

“ The loss of the enemy has been very severe : from their endeavours to conceal it, I have not been able to learn the number, though some of our officers state, who were taken on board the *Endymion*, that ten men were thrown overboard the night after the action, from that ship. The day after the action was remarkably fine, and gave them an excellent opportunity to secure the masts, &c. but they being so elated with the success, it was in a manner neglected. At ten, that night, there came on a most violent gale of wind, and continued with unabated fury for thirty hours. Next morning all our masts went by the board within an hour of each other ; our situa-

tion now became truly alarming—the wreck of the masts beating against the ship's bottom—very few of the guns secured—some loose, going from side to side—The ship rolling gangways under, lying in the trough of the sea: which at times was making free passage over her, and seven feet water in the hold. The crew were nearly worn out, and quite disheartened, but by the exertions of a few of our crew, who were left on board to take care of the sick, the wreck of the masts was with great difficulty cleared away. The ship then lay much easier, and by fresh exertions at the pumps, we had the joy to find we gained on the leak, and by night had the pleasure of finding the pumps to suck. Notwithstanding it continued to blow excessive hard, we began to have confidence that she would weather the gale. Our poor wounded men suffered very much; some, from the nature of their wounds, were not able to lay in their hammocks, and were tossed from side to side with the violent rolling of the ship, which hastened the death of several. The gale moderating next day, they commenced getting up jury masts, and in ten days arrived at Bermuda, where we found the *Pomone* and *Endymion*; the latter had lost all her masts and bowsprit, had hove all her upper deck guns overboard in the gale, and was very near foundering."

Commodore Decatur arrived at New-London in fourteen days from Bermuda, on the twenty-second day of February, in the *Narcissus* frigate, Captain Gordon. On his landing, the populace placed him in a carriage, and drew him through the principal streets of New-London, amidst the shouts of thousands of the citizens of that town and the vicinity. On setting him down at Brown's Hotel, the Commodore attempted to address the

multitude, but the acclamations were so loud and incessant, that he could not be heard. In the evening, Commodore Decatur, Commodore Shaw, and other officers of the United States' navy, and of the army; together with Captain Garland of the *Superb*, Captain Gordon of the *Narcissus*, and upwards of forty other officers of the British squadron off New-London, attended an elegant ball, which was given in celebration of peace and the birth day of Washington.

The affairs of the United States with Algiers, assuming a hostile appearance, the Commodore was despatched in the summer of 1815, with a squadron, to the Mediterranean, to reduce that regency to a more pacific disposition. He was to be succeeded by another squadron under Commodore Bainbridge. Panting for glory, Decatur hoisted his flag on board the United States' frigate *Guerriere*, and sailed with his squadron from New-York on the 18th of May, for his destination, with all possible despatch; in order to settle affairs with the Algerines before the arrival of the second squadron, and thus secure to himself the honours which would otherwise entwine another's brow. On his passage thither, he had the good fortune to fall in with the Algerine Admiral Rais Hammida, who was cruising against the Americans. Finding it impossible to escape, the Turk determined to defend his ship to the last, nor was the crescent lowered, until her gallant commander was no more. This ship was called the *Mirboha*, of 46 guns, and between four and five hundred men, and struck in twenty-five minutes after the action begun. The number of prisoners were four hundred and six, and upwards of thirty killed. The action was fought off Cape de Gatt, on the 17th of June, 1815. On the 19th of the same

month, off Cape Palos, after a chase of three hours, he captured an Algerine brig of twenty-two guns, and one hundred and eighty men; one hundred of whom escaped in their boats prior to the capture of the brig.

Commodore Decatur arrived before Algiers, on the 29th June, and hoisted a flag of truce on board the *Guerriere*, with the Swedish flag at the main. A boat came off with Mr. Norderling, Consul of Sweden, and the Captain of the port, to whom the capture of the frigate and brig was communicated, and to whom Commodore Decatur and William Thaler, Esq. acting as commissioners to negotiate a peace, delivered a letter for the Dey, from the President of the United States; and also a note from themselves, of which the following is a copy :

“ The American Commissioners to the day of Algiers.

“The undersigned have the honour to inform his Highness the Dey of Algiers, that they have been appointed by the President of the United States of America, Commissioners Plenipotentiary to treat of peace with his Highness, and, that pursuant to their instructions, they are ready to open a negotiation for the restoration of peace and harmony between the two countries, on terms just and honourable to both parties; and they feel it incumbent on them to state explicitly to his Highness, that they are instructed to treat upon no other principle, than that of perfect equality, and on the terms of the most favoured nations: no stipulation for paying any tribute to Algiers, under any form whatever, will be agreed to.

“The undersigned have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from the President of the United States, and they avail themselves of this occasion

to assure his Highness of their high consideration and profound respect."

The Captain of the port then requested that hostilities should cease preceding the negotiation, and that persons might be sent ashore to treat. Both propositions were rejected, the American Commissioners declaring that the negotiations must be carried on, on board the fleet, and that hostilities as repeated vessels, should not cease. On the following day, the Swedish Consul and the Captain of the port came on board with full powers to negotiate. The American Commissioners produced the model of a treaty which they declared would not be departed from in substance. Every attempt on the part of Algiers, to obtain a modification of it proved fruitless, even the restoration of the captured vessels was positively refused. Upon consideration, however, the American Commissioners resolved to restore the captured vessels as a *favour*, and not as matter of treaty, giving the Algerine to understand, that even this would depend on the signing of the treaty as presented. The Algerine Captain then produced a truce, to deliberate on the proposed terms; the reply was "not a minute; if your squadron appears in sight before the treaty is actually signed by the Dey, and the prisoners sent off, ours would capture them!" It was finally agreed that hostilities should cease when the Algerine boat should be perceived coming off with a white flag hoisted, the Swedish Consul pledging his word of honour not to hoist it unless the treaty was signed, and the prisoners in the boat. The Swedish Consul and Algerine Captain returned on shore, and although the distance was full five miles, they came back within three hours with the treaty signed, and having with

them the prisoners who were to be released from captivity by the terms of the treaty.

Commodore Decatur despatched the United States' brig *Epervier*, Lieutenant Shubrick, with the pleasing information to the American Government. This vessel was lost and supposed to have foundered at sea, with the prisoners on board, as nothing was ever heard of her since.

After having visited the other Barbary ports of Tunis and Tripoli, Commodore Decatur landed at Missena eight Neapolitan captives, whose release he obtained in his negotiations with the Dey of Algiers. This fact was communicated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the King of the Two Sicilies, at Naples, on the 8th of September, 1815, and he received a flattering and friendly answer. Decatur returned to the United States in November of the same year.

CAPTAIN

CHARLES MORRIS

WAS born in the month of October, 1784, at Woodstock, in the state of Connecticut. His predilection for the navy, was early and strong. At the age of about fifteen, he was appointed midshipman, and sailed from Portsmouth in the ship *Congress*, under the command of Captain Sever; when that ship, and the *Essex*, under the command of Captain Preble, were ordered on a cruise in the Indian seas. During her voyage towards her destination, the *Congress* was dismasted, and was obliged to put back for repairs. In this disaster, Mr. Morris had his shoulder dis-

located by the falling of a spar ; when his father, then purser of the ship, enquired of him whether he chose still to pursue the profession which he had adopted : a prompt affirmative was the answer, and he continued on board the same ship during a cruise in the West-Indies. At his return, he went out with Commodore Preble, in the ship *Constitution*, to the Mediterranean. At Syracuse, he was one of the seventy who volunteered on the expedition, to burn the ship *Philadelphia*, then in the harbour of Tripoli. On the third day of February, 1804, the volunteers, under the command of Lieutenant Decatur of the *Enterprise*, sailed from Syracuse, in the ketch *Intrepid*, on a duty, which the Commodore himself would not encourage, on account of the danger with which it must be attended. Mr. Morris was armed with the Commodore's pistols, which were offered him by the Commodore himself—a proof of the good opinion entertained by the Commodore, of his young adventurer. After fifteen days tempestuous weather, the *Intrepid*, with her seventy men, entered the harbour. The *Philadelphia* was moored within half gun shot of the Bashaw's castle, and of the principal battery. Two of the enemy's cruisers lay within two cables' length, on the starboard quarter ; and his gun-boats within half gun shot, on the starboard bow. All the guns of the frigate, were mounted and loaded. Such were the immediate perils to be encountered with a single ketch, besides the other dangers, that abound in a strongly fortified harbour. It was past eleven o'clock at night, when the ketch came alongside the frigate. Lieutenant Decatur and Mr. Morris instantly sprung on board, and after receiving a reinforcement from the ketch, attacked the Turks, who in great consternation had fled to the quar-

ter deck, where Morris was the first of the assailants to set his foot. About twenty of the Turks were killed on the spot. The remainder, either leaped overboard, or were driven below. It was so dark, that at two several times, Mr. Morris was in danger of perishing by the hand of his gallant Commander; once, at the attack of the quarter-deck, and the second time, on going to secure the magazine; in both instances being closely followed by Lieutenant Decatur. The object of this enterprise was accomplished—the Philadelphia was set fire to, and destroyed. On his return, Mr. Morris was promoted to the first lieutenancy on board the ship *Hornet*, commanded by Capt. Dent; and in that capacity, made a voyage to France, with despatches from the American to the French government. At Paris, he was presented to the Emperor, being the first instance where that distinction was ever conferred upon a Lieutenant; and presented his Majesty with a model of the ship *Constitution*. In Captain Isaac Hull's glorious achievements in the *Constitution*, Mr. Morris took a distinguished part as first Lieutenant. Her escape, on the 17th July, 1812, from a British squadron, consisting of one ship of the line, four frigates, a brig and a schooner, the nearest frigate being within gun shot for twenty-four hours, has justly been considered a masterly exertion of nautical skill.* Captain Hull however insisted, with characteristic magnanimity, that his officers, and particularly Lieutenant Morris, should be partakers in the honour, which pub-

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* The chase continued for sixty hours, and was finally relinquished by the British Commanders, to their great mortification, in consequence of being completely out-mancœuvred.

lic opinion was bestowing with great liberality upon himself. It may well be supposed, that the most consummate seamanship was employed on this occasion, by both parties. On the nineteenth of the following August, in the capture of the *Guerriere*, carrying fifty guns, the gallantry and skill of Lieutenant Morris were most conspicuous. He was dangerously wounded by a ball, which entered the belly, on the left side, and passed out, grazing the inside of the hip bone in its passage. He survived, however, to hear his name associated with the most distinguished in the navy.

As an expression of their sentiments towards Captain Hull and Lieutenant Morris, the citizens of Philadelphia, after the capture of the *Guerriere*, presented each of them with a superb piece of plate. In the autumn of the same year, he was promoted to the rank of post-captain. This excited some dissatisfaction, among the officers of subordinate rank, who by this appointment had been passed over. Mr. Lawrence, afterwards Captain of the *Chesapeake*, but at that time master and Commander of the ship *Hornet*, addressed remonstrances on the subject, both to the Secretary of the Navy, and to Congress. But this cause of complaint was afterwards removed by the appointment of Messrs. Lawrence, Gordon and Jones, to the same rank with Mr. Morris, with the seniority in their favour, a measure adopted in consequence of the representations of Mr. Morris himself. Captain Morris's commission bears date the day of the surrender of the *Guerriere*. He was afterwards put in command of the *Adams* corvette, then in the Potomac; which he repaired, and carried to sea, through the British squadron, which then blockaded Chesapeake bay. Having suffered severely in a gale of wind, he put

into Penobscot bay for repairs ; and for greater security, proceeded up the river to Hampden, about thirty miles from Castine. On the first day of September, 1814, while the ship was at Hampden, prepared for heaving down, and in no condition of defence, she was threatened by the appearance of a British force of sixteen sail, off the harbour of Castine. Preparations were instantly made to defend the ship, from the land. The cannon were sent on shore, batteries were thrown up, obstructions were placed in the river, and the militia were called in from the country. Lieutenant Lewis by a forced march arrived from Castine, with a detachment of twenty-eight of the United States artillery, under his command. The militia were ill provided with arms and ammunition, which, as far as practicable, were supplied from the ship. On the third, the enemy made his attack : the militia fled and dispersed in every direction ; and nothing remained to do, but to prevent the ship from falling into the hands of the enemy, and make the best retreat. Accordingly the ship was set on fire, the guns spiked, and the men brought away, without the smallest injury from the fire of the enemy. Captain Morris's loss, was one seaman and one marine, taken prisoners. That of the enemy, was estimated at eight or ten killed, and from forty to fifty wounded ; principally by the 18 pounder, under the charge of Lieutenant Lewis. Since the above period, Captain Morris has been appointed to the command of the ship Congress, at Portsmouth, the very ship on board of which he first entered. Unpatronised and unobtrusive, Captain Morris may claim as his own, the progress he has made. In personal appearance, he exhibits too much of the pleasing, to justify ideas of the sturdy seamen,

enduring hardships, toils, and wounds. He received, in February, 1815, the hand of Miss Harriet Bowen, daughter of Dr. William Bowen, of Providence, (R. I.) in marriage.

He partook of the honours of Decatur in 1815, in settling affairs with Algiers. In 1817, he was despatched in this ship with an agent from the United States to Hayti, to make certain demands of the Haytian governments of Christophe and Petion, respecting their conduct towards some citizens of America. Having performed this service, he returned to the United States in August of the same year.

COMMODORE

DAVID PORTER.

THE subject of the following memoir, was the son of Captain David Porter, and was born in Boston on the 1st of February, 1780. His father had been an officer in the American navy, during the revolutionary war; and after its conclusion, was appointed to the command of the revenue cutter *Active*, and removed with his family to Baltimore.

The constitution of young Porter was delicate; but his mind was bent on the profession of a seaman. He made his first voyage, with his father, to the West-Indies, at the age of sixteen; and his second, as mate of a ship, from Baltimore to St. Domingo. In this voyage, his address, courage, and constitution, were put to the trial. He was twice impressed on board a British ship, and as many times effected his escape. Being destitute

of money, he was obliged to work his passage home, in a cold season, without the clothing necessary to his health and comfort.

He afterwards obtained a midshipman's warrant, on board the *Constellation*, Commodore Truxton; and was in the action with the French frigate *L'Insurgente*. His conduct in this action procured for him the commission of a Lieutenant, on board the same ship, under Commodore Barron. He went next, on board the United States' schooner *Experiment*, under Captain Maley, cruising on the coast of Hispaniola, fighting the brigands, and annoying their harbours in his boat. In the *Amphitrite*, a pilot boat schooner, with five small swivels, taken from the tops of the *Constellation*, and fifteen hands, he engaged a French privateer, mounting one long twelve pounder, and several swivels, manned with a crew of forty men, and accompanied by a prize ship, and a large barge with thirty men, and armed with swivels. With this fearful odds against him, and notwithstanding the loss of his rudder in the engagement, he made prize of the privateer and ship, without the loss of a man; though several were wounded, and his vessel much injured. There were seven killed on board the privateer, and fifteen wounded.

After his return from this voyage, he went to the West-Indies again, as first Lieutenant of the *Experiment*, commanded by Captain Charles Stewart. At this time, French privateers were particularly troublesome to the American commerce; but the appearance of the *Experiment*, and the vigour of her operations, struck such an awe into those commissioned bucaniers, as effectually to repress their depredations, and shut them within their own harbours. From the *Experiment* both Captain Stewart and Lieutenant Porter were translated

to the schooner *Enterprise*, on her going with the first squadron to the Mediterranean. The *Enterprise* engaged a Tripolitan corsair of very superior force, and after a most severe conflict, in which the *Enterprise* made great havoc among the enemy, and suffered little herself, was eventually the conqueror. On this, and on all other occasions, while on that station, whether in harbours or at sea, in open battle, or on desperate enterprises, the valour, skill and promptitude of Lieutenant Porter, were conspicuous, and called forth the applause of his superiors and companions in arms. In one of these hazardous exploits, he was wounded in the left thigh. He joined the frigate *Philadelphia*, Captain Bainbridge, at Gibraltar, in September, 1803. Off the harbour of Tripoli, on the 31st October, in fine weather, the *Philadelphia* gave chase to a Tripolitan armed ship, and in the pursuit, ran foul of a rock. After ineffectual endeavours to float the ship, the whole crew and officers surrendered, and were carried prisoners to the city of Tripoli. There was a passage under the rooms where the officers were confined, through which the American sailors, employed on the public works, were in the habit of passing. From one of the rooms of this passage, a communication was opened with the sailors, through a small hole in the wall. In an unguarded, or unlucky moment, this communication was discovered, and information given to the Bashaw. Suddenly the officer having the charge of the castle, rushed into the room, and demanded who had the presumption to do the forbidden deed. To this demand Porter answered coolly, that he was the author. He was immediately dragged away; but to what fate, his friends neither knew, nor could be informed. In this state of uncertainty,

they remained until relieved by the appearance of Porter himself. During this confinement, Lieutenant Porter found refuge from the irksomeness of restraint, in an habitual fondness for study. In his books, of which he procured a competent number, he enjoyed an agreeable society, always ready, and never intrusive or importunate. History, drawing, the French language, mathematics, and the theory of his profession improved while they amused his mind and enabled him to think afterwards that his days of captivity had not been wholly lost, or painful or unprofitable. What he thus acquired he was ready to communicate, and in this manner made others partakers in the alleviations which he himself enjoyed.

After the establishment of peace with this Regency, the American captives were set at liberty; and Porter with his companions returned to the pursuit of their several vocations and the performance of their respective duties. At Syracuse, to which place they took shipping after their release, a court of inquiry was held on the causes of the loss of the Philadelphia, which resulted in the honourable acquittal of the officers of that ship. He was then appointed to the command of the brig Enterprise, and ordered to Tripoli. He availed himself of the latitude of his orders to visit the ruins of the Roman colony of Leptis Mogna, and here the art of drawing which he had cultivated while in prison at Tripoli, was called delightfully and profitably into use. The remnants of ancient magnificence called forth sublime and solemn emotions, afforded sensible evidence of the power and elegance of the wonderful nation with whom it once existed, and confirmed the impressions which the pen of history had cre-

ated. The speculations and researches of Porter and his friends were rewarded with the discovery of neglected specimens of ancient art. Coins, statues and massy pillars here and there appeared among the general desolation to awaken the glowing mind of the traveller "disturb'd, delighted, rais'd, refin'd," as he wandered over classic ground or regaled amidst the fragments of the temple of Jupiter.

In the Mediterranean Captain Porter found it necessary on more than one occasion, to vindicate the honour of his national flag, and give those who might be inclined to undervalue it to feel that they were wrong in their estimate of its relative importance. For some insult which was offered to the brig in the persons of the officers and crew, Captain Porter had caused the author, an English sailor, to be flogged at the gangway. The Governor of Malta, where the brig then lay at anchor took up the affair with much apparent spirit, and directed the forts to prevent the *Enterprise* from departing. Information being given to Captain Porter of this proceeding, he instantly made sail, and passed the batteries with lighted matches, and in the attitude of firing upon the town, should any obstruction be thrown in his way: very prudently no such measure was attempted.

Afterwards in passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, in sight of the town and of the British squadron in the harbour, he was attacked by twelve Spanish gun boats. Although the superiority was manifestly on their side, he compelled them to retire, leaving an impression both on the assailants and on the spectators, advantageous as well as honourable to the little navy of his country.

Affairs in the Mediterranean being somewhat composed, Captain Porter returned after an absence of five years, and connected himself in marriage with the daughter of the Hon. Mr. Anderson, member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

He was next ordered to command the flotilla on the New-Orleans station. The embargo and non-intercourse laws were vigorously and faithfully enforced, and in particular, a stop was put to the depredations of a French pirate who had long infested the Chesapeake, in an armed schooner and seemed to think himself out of the reach of the arm of justice. This marauder, Porter captured, and thus rendered an important service to the commerce of the southern coast of the United States.

Thinking his health in danger from a climate little adapted to his constitution, he was at his request appointed to command the Essex frigate at Norfolk. In this frigate he sailed from New-York on the third of July, 1812. War then existing between the United States and Great Britain, he was attacked by the British sloop of war Alert, Captain Laugharne. The ship bore down confidently upon the weather quarter of the Essex, gave three cheers, and commenced action, but in a few minutes surrendered. She was the first ship of war, taken from the enemy; and her flag, the first British flag sent to the seat of government, during the late war.

Agreeable to the orders of Commodore Bainbridge, and to a plan concerted between them, Captain Porter having repaired his ship, sailed from the Delaware, on the 27th of October, 1812, for the coast of Brazil. Fortune threw in his way, his Britannic Majesty's packet, Nocton, having on board 11,000 pounds sterling, in money. This

vessel he captured, and after taking out her money, sent her to America. About this time, circumstances concurred to render it inexpedient for him to remain longer on that coast. Commodore Bainbridge, after the capture of the Java, would in all probability, be under the necessity of returning to port for repairs ; the Hornet had been captured by the Montague, and the coast was swarming with hostile ships, in pursuit of him ; so that co-operation and assistance were removed from him, at the very time they were most needed. Under these circumstances, he judged it prudent, to quit a station so full of peril, and seek another which afforded equal prospect of honour and advantage, with greater safety. Accordingly, he stretched along the south-east coast of America, intending to reap his harvest on the waves of the southern Pacific. He doubled Cape Horn, in very tempestuous weather : and arrived at Valparaiso on the 14th March, 1813. Having exhausted his provisions, he replenished his ship at this port. Previous to this time, the South Americans had felt themselves at liberty to make prize of the whaling vessels from North America, and prisoners of their crews : their apology was, that they were the allies of the enemies of the United States ; and that Spain would probably in a short time make common cause with her ally, and declare war against her enemy. These reasons appearing to actuate the Peruvian captain, and likely to continue to influence his conduct, when future opportunity should present ; but appearing wholly insufficient in the view of Captain Porter, he resolved to take from the Peruvian the means of future annoyance, and threw all his guns and ammunition into the sea. On board this vessel, were twenty-four Americans, the crews

of two whalemén, held prisoners ; whom Captain Porter liberated, and wrote an account of his proceedings to the Vice-roy, which contained his reasons for so doing. Captain Porter afterwards re-took one of the whalemén as she was entering the harbour of Lima.

The British government probably had not expected so formidable and so troublesome a visitor, in that part of the world. At the period of the arrival of the *Essex*, her course was without obstruction from the enemy, and his commerce exposed to capture, without any protection, and without the suspicion of danger. Great destruction was the unavoidable consequence ; especially among the whaling vessels. The *Essex junior*, of twenty guns, was one of his prizes ; and the command of her given to Lieutenant Downes : most of them had valuable cargoes on board : some of them were sent home, some of them were laid up in Valparaiso, and the rest disposed of in different ways.

With as many vessels under his command, as he could conveniently man, he was in a condition for a time, to sweep the Pacific. His prizes furnished him abundantly with provisions, clothing, medicine, naval stores, and the means of making liberal payments to his officers and men. Great consternation prevailed, not only throughout this sea, but penetrated the insurance offices of Great Britain. Accordingly, ships were despatched in various directions for the capture of this force. Some were ordered to the eastern as well as to the western coast of South-America ; and others, to cruise in the China seas, and off New-Zealand, Timor, and New-Holland. Porter anticipated such an event ; and his dispositions were such, that accident alone, could effect the object of his

pursuers. His course was trackless ; sometimes in the open ocean, and sometimes among the uninviting and unfrequented islands of the South Sea ; but never on the coast of the continent. Distracted by surmises, arising from indistinct and contradictory information, his enemies found themselves at all times, either too late, or entirely out of their way. Their difficulties were aggravated, by the superior means of information, which he enjoyed, in addition to the advantage naturally possessed, by the party pursued, over the party pursuing, the object of the one being to attain a single given point ; that of the other, to avoid it, among an infinite number of others. Lieutenant Downes learned at Valparaiso, whither he had convoyed the prizes, that Commodore Hillyar in the *Phœbe* frigate, rated at thirty-six guns, with two sloops of war, was expected. With the intention of closing his expedition to this sea, with something more brilliant than the capture of merchantmen and whalers, Captain Porter proceeded to the island of Nooaheevah, one of the Washington groupe, for repairs. On the 19th of November, 1813, Captain Porter took formal possession of this island, in behalf of the United States of America, by the name of Madison Island. It is situate between the latitudes of 9 and 10, S. and in long. 140, W. from Greenwich, and is large, fertile, and populous. The natives of that part of the Island where he landed, were friendly ; supplying him abundantly with provisions and gladly receiving assistance from him, in a war then carried on with some neighbouring tribes, whom he reduced to subjection. Having completely manned his ship, and supplied her with provisions and stores for four months, and having secured, under the guns of the battery, the three prizes which he

had brought with him, he sailed for the coast of Chili, on the 12th December, 1813. From cruising on the coast, he proceeded to Valparaiso, where Commodore Hillyar, then in quest of him, afterwards arrived. Of the action which ensued in the month of March afterwards, and of the hopes, feelings and expectations of Commodore Porter on that occasion, no better account can be given, than by introducing extracts from his letter on that subject, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated at Sea, July 3, 1814.

Extracts of a letter from Commodore Porter, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated at sea, July 3, 1814.

“I had done all the injury that could be done to the British commerce in the Pacific, and still hoped to signalize my cruise by something more splendid before leaving that sea.—I thought it not improbable that Commodore Hillyar might have kept his arrival secret, and believing that he would seek me at Valparaiso, as the most likely place to find me, I therefore determined to cruise about that place, and should I fail of meeting him, hoped to be compensated by the capture of some merchant ships, said to be expected from England.

“The Phœbe, agreeable to my expectations, came to seek me at Valparaiso, where I was anchored with the Essex; my armed prize, the Essex Junior, under the command of Lieutenant Downes, on the look out off the harbour. But contrary to the course I thought he would pursue, Commodore Hillyar brought with him the Cherub sloop of war, mounting twenty-eight guns, eighteen 32 pound carronades, eight 24's, and two long 9's on the quarter deck and forecastle, and a complement of 180 men. The force of the Phœbe

is as follows : thirty long 18-pounders, sixteen 32 pound carronades, one howitzer, and six three pounders in the tops, in all fifty-three guns, and a complement of 320 men ; making a force of eighty one guns, and five hundred men ; in addition to which they took on board the crew of an English letter of marque lying in port. Both ships had picked crews, and were sent into the Pacific, in company with the *Racoon* of twenty-two guns, and a store ship of twenty guns, for the express purpose of seeking the *Essex* ; and were prepared with flags bearing the motto, " God and country ; British sailors' best rights ; Traitors offend both." This was intended as a reply to my motto, " FREE TRADE AND SAILORS' RIGHTS," under the erroneous impression that my crew were chiefly Englishmen, or to counteract its effect on their own crews. The force of the *Essex* was forty-six guns, forty 32 pound carronades, and six long 12's ; and her crew, which had been much reduced by manning prizes, amounted only to two hundred and fifty-five men. The *Essex Junior*, which was intended chiefly as a store-ship, mounted twenty guns, ten 18 pound carronades and ten short 6's, with only sixty men on board. In reply to their motto, I wrote at my mizen, "*God, our Country, and Liberty ; Tyrants offend them.*"

" On getting their provisions on board, they went off the port for the purpose of blockading me, where they cruised for near six weeks ; during which time I endeavoured to provoke a challenge, and frequently, but ineffectually, to bring the *Phœbe* alone to action, first with both my ships, and afterwards with my single ship, with both crews on board. I was several times under way, and ascertained that I had greatly the advantage in point of sailing, and once succeeded

in closing within gun shot of the *Phoebe*, and commenced a fire on her, when she ran down for the *Cherub*, which was too and a half miles to leeward; this excited some surprise and expressions of indignation, as previous to my getting under way, she hove to off the port, hoisted her motto flag, and fired a gun to windward. Commodore Hillyar seemed determined to avoid a contest with me on nearly equal terms, and from his extreme prudence in keeping both his ships ever after constantly within hail of each other, there were no hopes of any advantages to my country from a longer stay in port. I therefore determined to put to sea the first opportunity which should offer; and I was the more strongly induced to do so, as I had gained certain intelligence that the *Tagus*, rated 38, and two other frigates, had sailed for that sea in pursuit of me; and I had reason to expect the arrival of the *Racoon* from the north-west coast of America, where she had been sent for the purpose of destroying our fur establishment on the *Columbia*. A rendezvous was appointed for the *Essex Junior*, and every arrangement made for sailing, and I intended to let them chase me off, to give the *Essex Junior* an opportunity of escaping. On the 28th of March, the day after this determination was formed, the wind came on to blow fresh from the southward, when I parted my larboard cable and dragged my starboard anchor directly out to sea. Not a moment was to be lost in getting sail on the ship. The enemy were close in with the point forming the west side of the bay; but on opening them, I saw a prospect of passing to windward, when I took in my top-gallant sails, which were set over single-reefed topsails, and braced up for this purpose; but on rounding the point, a heavy

squall struck the ship and carried away her main-top mast, precipitating the men who were aloft into the sea, who were drowned. Both ships now gave chase to me, and I endeavoured in my disabled state to regain the port; but finding I could not recover the common anchorage, I ran close into a small bay, about three quarters of a mile to leeward of the battery, on the east side of the harbour, and let go my anchor within pistol shot of the shore, where I intended to repair my damages as soon as possible. The enemy continued to approach, and showed an evident intention of attacking, regardless of the neutrality of the place where I was anchored; and the caution observed in their approach to the attack of the crippled *Essex*, was truly ridiculous, as was their display of their motto flags, and the number of jacks at all their mast heads. I with as much expedition as circumstances would admit of, got my ship ready for action, and endeavoured to get a spring on my cable, but had not succeeded when the enemy, at fifty-four minutes after 3, P. M. made his attack, the *Phœbe* placing herself under my stern, and the *Cherub* on my starboard bow: but, the *Cherub* soon finding her situation a hot one, bore up and ran under my stern also, where both ships kept up a hot raking fire. I had got three long twelve pounders out of the stern ports, which were worked with so much bravery and skill, that in half an hour we so disabled both, as to compel them to haul off to repair damages.—In the course of this firing, I had by the great exertions of Mr. Edward Barnewell, the acting sailing-master, assisted by Mr. Linscott, the boatswain, succeeded in getting springs on our cable three different times; but the fire of the enemy was so excessive, that before we could get our broadside to bear, they

were shot away, and thus rendered useless to us.

“My ship had received many injuries, and several had been killed and wounded; but my brave officers and men, notwithstanding the unfavourable circumstances under which we were brought to action, and the powerful force opposed to us, were no ways discouraged—all appeared determined to defend their ship to the last extremity, and to die in preference to a shameful surrender. Our gaff, with the ensign and motto flag at the mizen, had been shot away, but **FREE TRADE AND SAILORS’ RIGHTS** continued to fly at the fore. Our ensign was replaced by another; and to guard against a similar event, an ensign was made fast in the mizen rigging, and several jacks were hoisted in different parts of the ship.—The enemy soon repaired his damages for a fresh attack. He now placed himself, with both his ships, on my starboard quarter, out of the reach of my carronades, and where my stern guns could not be brought to bear; he there kept up a most galling fire, which it was out of my power to return, when I saw no prospect of injuring him without getting under way, and becoming the assailant. My topsail sheets and haultards were all shot away, as well as the jib and foretopmast staysail haultards. The only rope not cut was the flying jib haultards; and that being the only sail I could set, I caused it to be hoisted, my cable to be cut, and ran down on both ships, with an intention of laying the *Phoebe* on board. The firing on both sides was now tremendous; I had let fall my foretopsail and foresail, but the want of tacks and sheets rendered them almost useless to us—yet we were enabled, for a short time, to close with the enemy; and although our decks were now strewn with dead, and our cockpit filled with wounded—

although our ship had been several times on fire, and was rendered a perfect wreck, we were still encouraged to hope to save her, by the circumstance of the *Cherub*, from her crippled state, being compelled to haul off. She did not return to close action again, although she apparently had it in her power to do so, but kept up a distant firing with her long guns. The *Phœbe*, from our disabled state, was enabled, however, by edging off, to choose the distance which best suited her long guns, and kept up a tremendous fire on us, which mowed down my brave companions by the dozen.—Many of my guns had been rendered useless by the enemy's shot, and many of them had their whole crews destroyed. We manned them again from those which were disabled, and one gun in particular was three times manned—fifteen men were slain at it in the course of the action ! but strange as it may appear, the Captain of it escaped with only a slight wound.

“ Finding that the enemy had it in his power to choose his distance, I now gave up all hopes of closing with him, and, as the wind, for the moment, seemed to favour the design, I determined to endeavour to run her on shore, land my men, and destroy her. Every thing seemed to favour my wishes. We had approached the shore within musket shot, and I had no doubt of succeeding, when, in an instant, the wind shifted from the land (as is very common in this port in the latter part of the day) and payed our head down on the *Phœbe*, where we were again exposed to a dreadful raking fire. My ship was now totally unmanageable ; yet, as her head was towards the enemy, and he to leeward of me, I still hoped to be able to board him. At this moment Lieutenant-Commandant Downes came on board to receive

my orders, under the impression that I should soon be a prisoner. He could be of no use to me in the then wretched state of the Essex ; and finding (from the enemy's putting his helm up) that my last attempt at boarding would not succeed, I directed him, after he had been about ten minutes on board, to return to his own ship, to be prepared for defending and destroying her in case of an attack. He took with him several of my wounded, leaving three of his boat's crew on board to make room for them. The Cherub now had an opportunity of distinguishing herself, by keeping up a hot fire on him during his return. The slaughter on board my ship had now become horrible, the enemy continuing to rake us, and we unable to bring a gun to bear. I therefore directed a hawser to be bent to the sheet anchor, and the anchor to be cut from the bows, to bring her head round ; this succeeded. We again got our broadside to bear, and as the enemy was much crippled and unable to hold his own, I have no doubt we would soon have drifted out of gun shot, before he discovered we had anchored, had not the hawser unfortunately parted. My ship had taken fire several times during the action, but alarmingly so forward and aft at this moment, the flames were bursting up each hatchway, and no hopes were entertained of saving her ; our distance from the shore did not exceed three quarters of a mile, and I hoped many of my brave crew would be able to save themselves, should the ship blow up, as I was informed the fire was near the magazine, and the explosion of a large quantity of powder below, served to increase the horrors of our situation—our boats were destroyed by the enemy's shot ; I therefore directed those who could swim to jump overboard, and endea-

four to gain the shore. Some reached it—some were taken by the enemy, and some perished in the attempt ; but most preferred sharing with me the fate of the ship. We who remained, now turned our attention wholly to extinguishing the flames ; and when we had succeeded, went again to our guns, where the firing was kept up for some minutes ; but the crew had by this time become so weakened, that they all declared to me the impossibility of making further resistance, and intreated me to surrender my ship to save my wounded, as all further attempts at opposition must prove ineffectual, almost every gun being disabled by the destruction of their crews. I now sent for the officers of divisions to consult them ; but what was my surprise, to find only acting Lieutenant Stephen Decatur M'Knight remaining, who confirmed the report respecting the condition of the guns on the gun-deck—those on the spar deck were not in a better state.

“ Lieutenant Wilmer, after fighting most gallantly throughout the action, had been knocked overboard by a splinter, while getting the sheet anchor from the bows, and was drowned. Acting Lieutenant J. G. Cowell had lost a leg ; Mr. Edward Barnewell, acting-sailing master, had been carried below, after receiving two severe wounds, one in the breast and one in the face ; and acting Lieutenant William H. Odenheimer had been knocked overboard from the quarter an instant before, and did not regain the ship until after the surrender. I was informed that the cockpit, the steerage, the wardroom, and the birthdeck, could contain no more wounded ; that the wounded were killed while the surgeons were dressing them, and that, unless something was speedily done to prevent it, the ship would soon

sink, from the number of shot holes in her bottom. And on sending for the carpenter, he informed me that all his crew had been killed or wounded, and that he had once been over the side to stop the leaks, when his slings had been shot away, and it was with difficulty he was saved from drowning. The enemy, from the smoothness of the water, and the impossibility of our reaching him with our carronades, and the little apprehension that was excited by our fire, which had now become much slackened, was enabled to take aim at us as at a target ; his shot never missed our hull, and my ship was cut up in a manner which was perhaps never before witnessed—in fine, I saw no hopes of saving her, and at twenty minutes after 6 p. m. gave the painful order to strike the colours.—Seventy-five men, including officers, were all that remained of my whole crew, after the action, capable of doing duty, and many of them severely wounded, some of whom have since died. The enemy still continued his fire, and my brave, though unfortunate companions, were still falling about me. I directed an opposite gun to be fired, to show them we intended no further resistance ; but they did not desist ; four men were killed at my side, and others in different parts of the ship. I now believed he intended to show us no quarters, and that it would be as well to die with my flag flying as struck, and was on the point of again hoisting it, when about ten minutes after hauling the colours down, he ceased firing.

“ We have been unfortunate, but not disgraced—the defence of the Essex has not been less honourable to her officers and crew, than the capture of an equal force, and I now consider my situation less unpleasant, than that of Commodore Hillyar, who, in violation of every principle of

+ quarter—i.e. mercy
quarters—i.e. mercy
The enemy was in the

honour and generosity, and regardless of the rights of nations, attacked the *Essex* in her crippled state, within pistol shot of a neutral shore ; when for six weeks I had daily offered him fair and honourable combat, on terms greatly to his advantage ; the blood of the slain must be on his head ; and he has yet to reconcile his conduct to Heaven, to his conscience, and to the world.

“ I must in justification to myself observe, that with our six twelve pounders only, we fought this action, our carronades being almost useless.

“ The loss in killed and wounded has been great with the enemy ; among the former is the first Lieutenant of the *Phœbe*, and of the latter, Captain Tucker of the *Cherub*, whose wounds are severe. Both the *Essex* and *Phœbe* were in a sinking state, and it was with difficulty they could be kept afloat until they anchored in Valparaiso next morning. The battered state of the *Essex*, will, I believe, prevent her ever reaching England ; and I also think it will be out of their power to repair the damages of the *Phœbe*, so as to enable her to double Cape Horn.

“ In justice to Commodore Hillyar, I must observe, that (although I can never be reconciled to the manner of his attack on the *Essex*, or to his conduct before the action,) he has, since our capture, shown the greatest humanity to my wounded, (whom he permitted me to land, on condition that the United States would bear their expenses,) and has endeavoured as much as lay in his power, to alleviate the distresses of war, by the most generous and delicate deportment towards myself, my officers and crew ; he gave orders that the property of every person should be respected.

“ To possess the *Essex*, it has cost the British

government near six millions of dollars, and yet, sir, her capture was owing entirely to accident; and if we consider the expedition with which naval contests are now decided, the action is a dishonour to them.

“ During the action, our Consul-General, Mr. Poinsett, called on the Governor of Valparaiso, and requested that the batteries might protect the Essex. This request was refused, but he promised that if she should succeed in fighting her way to the common anchorage, he would send an officer to the British commander and request him to cease firing, but declined using force under any circumstances, and there is no doubt a perfect understanding existed between them. This conduct, added to the assistance given to the British, and their friendly reception after the action, and the strong bias of the faction which governs Chili in favour of the English, as well as their hostility to the Americans, induced Mr. Poinsett to leave that country. Under such circumstances, I did not conceive it would be proper for me to claim the restoration of my ship, confident that the claim would be made by my government to more effect. Finding some difficulty in the sale of my prizes, I had taken the Hector and Catharine to sea and burnt them with their cargoes.”

On Commodore Porter's return to the United States, he was received with that eclat to which the brilliancy of his actions entitled him. He assisted at the defence of Baltimore, and on the return of peace, Congress having established a Navy Board to assist the operations of the Navy Department, he was appointed one of the three Commissioners to whom its direction was confided.

COMMODORE

WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE.

WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE, son of Doctor Absalom Bainbridge, a respectable physician of Princeton, New-Jersey, was born at that place, on the seventh of May, 1774. While yet a child, his parents removed to New-York, and he was left under the care of his grandfather, John Taylor, Esq. of Monmouth county, where he received his education, which, as he was originally destined to mercantile pursuits, was confined to the ordinary branches of English instruction, and the rudiments of the French language. At sixteen, he was placed in a counting-house at New-York, but was soon removed by his grandfather to Philadelphia, and placed as an apprentice to the sea service in the employ of Messrs. Miller and Murray, merchants, whom he was to serve for a certain time without indentures, and free of expense. In their employ, he made many voyages and soon rose to command. At eighteen years of age, while mate of the ship *Hope*, on her way to Holland, the crew, taking advantage of a violent gale of wind, rose upon the officers, seized the captain, and had nearly succeeded in throwing him overboard, when young Bainbridge, hearing the alarm, ran on deck with an old pistol without a lock, and being assisted by an apprentice boy and an Irish sailor, who was attached to him from being an old shipmate, rescued the captain, seized the ringleaders, and quelled the mutiny. So satisfied were his employers with this as well as his general conduct, that before his term of service had expired, he received the command

of a ship in the Dutch trade when only nineteen years of age. From this time, 1793, till the year 1798, he commanded merchant ships in the trade from Philadelphia to Europe. In one of these voyages, in the year 1796, on his way from Bordeaux to St. Thomas, in the small ship *Hope*, with four small carriage guns and nine men, he had an engagement with a British schooner of eight guns and thirty-five men, commanded by a sailing-master in the navy, and after a smart action compelled her to strike her colours. As, however, the two countries were at peace, and he of course was acting only on the defensive, he could not take possession of her; but sent her off contemptuously to make a report of her action. The *Hope* lost no men, but the enemy had many killed and wounded.

In the month of July, 1798, while preparing to sail for Spain, he received unexpectedly and without any application on his part, an offer of the command of the United States' schooner *Retaliation*, of fourteen guns, to be employed against France, between which power the United States had recently commenced hostilities. He accepted the appointment, on condition that he should have a commission as Lieutenant and Commander in the navy, and be placed first of that grade on the list of promotion. Having received this, he sailed in the *Retaliation*, and after cruising during the summer along the coast of the United States, accompanied the squadron, under Commodore Murray, on a cruise in the West-Indies. While cruising to the windward of Gaudaloupe, the *Retaliation* was captured, in the month of November, by two French frigates and a lugger, and taken into that island, where she remained three months. On board the frigate which cap-

tured her, was General Desfourneaux, on his way to Guadaloupe, to supersede Victor Hughes in the command of the island. This officer, desirous, as it would appear from his conduct, of seeming to be the friend of the United States, proposed to Lieutenant Bainbridge to resume the command of his vessel, and return to the United States. This offer was accompanied by assurance of the respect and regard in which he held the American people. His conduct, however, rendered these plausible appearances but too suspicious. Whilst affecting an ostentatious generosity in giving up the *Retaliatio*n, other American ships, of far more value, were retained, and his assurances of respect were contradicted by the harsh and rigorous treatment of many Americans, whom he refused to regard as prisoners, but who were confined and treated with as much severity as criminals. Lieutenant Bainbridge replied, that he knew of no other light in which he could be regarded, than either as a prisoner or as entirely free—that if General Desfourneaux returned him his ship and his commission, that commission required him to cruise against the commerce of France, an injunction which he dared not disobey. On the other hand, if he were a prisoner, the proper course would be to make his ship a cartel and send her home in that way. He remonstrated at the same time with great firmness against the treatment which his countrymen were daily receiving. General Desfourneaux insisted on his resuming his command, threatened him with imprisonment if he refused, and declared that if, on receiving the *Retaliatio*n he should cruise against the French, every American would be put to the sword. Lieutenant Bainbridge replied that no threats should induce him to act

unworthy of his character as an American officer ; till at last, finding that he was not to be won over into this plan of dissembled friendship, General Desfourneaux, gave him a declaration that he had been obliged by force to resume the command of his vessel, with her crew reduced to forty men ; and with this justification for his government, Lieutenant Bainbridge sailed, in company with two flags of truce, for the United States.

He reached home in February, 1799, and his exchange being soon effected, he received a commission of Master Commandant, and sailed in the brig Norfolk, of eighteen guns, on a second cruise to the West-Indies. Here he remained, convoying the trade of the United States, for some months, during which time he captured a French privateer, ran ashore another of sixteen guns, destroyed a number of barges, besides taking several of the enemy's merchant vessels. On his return to the United States in August of the same year, he found that during his absence, five Lieutenants had been promoted over him to the rank of Captain. As his conduct had uniformly received the approbation of the government, and as none of those who were promoted had had any opportunity of distinguishing themselves particularly, he remonstrated of course against such a violation of his rights. He received, however, no other satisfaction than a promise that no such appointment should take place for the future. Were it not for this irregularity, he would now have ranked as second Captain in the Navy. Although mortified and disappointed, his attachment to the service induced him still to remain in it ; and he again sailed with a squadron of four brigs and a ship, destined to protect the trade of the United States to Cuba—a service which he

performed so much to the satisfaction of all who were interested in it, that on leaving the station in April, 1800, an address was presented to him from the American merchants and others concerned in the United States' trade, expressive of their regret at his approaching absence, and their testimony "of the vigilance, perseverance, and urbanity which had marked his conduct during his arduous command on this station," and the "essential services which he had rendered to his country."

When he returned to the United States he received a Captain's commission, and was appointed to the command of the frigate *George Washington*, in which he shortly afterwards sailed for Algiers, with the presents which the United States were by treaty bound to make to that Regency. He arrived in safety at Algiers on the seventeenth of September, 1800, and proceeded to land the presents, which were well received, and every attention paid to Captain Bainbridge, to whom the Dey presented an elegant Turkish sword. In a few days, however, these friendly appearances vanished, and the Dey made a most unexpected and extraordinary demand, that the *George Washington* should carry his ambassador with presents to the Grand Seignior at Constantinople. This demand was made under pretence of one of the stipulations in our treaty with Algiers, by which it is declared that, "should the Dey want to freight any American vessel that may be in the Regency or Turkey, said vessel not being engaged, in consequence of the friendship subsisting between the two nations, he expects to have the preference given him, on his paying the same freight offered by any other nation." Against this requisition Captain Bainbridge, and the American Consul,

Mr. O'Brien, remonstrated warmly and strenuously. It was evident, they said, that this stipulation could apply only to merchant ships, not to national vessels, charged by their own government with specific employments ;—that Captain Bainbridge had received positive instructions for his voyage, from which he dared not and would not deviate, and that there were other ships in the harbour which would answer the purpose equally well. The Dey, however, persisted in his demand : and left Captain Bainbridge only a choice of great difficulties and embarrassments. On the one hand, an Ambassador with a retinue of two hundred Turks as passengers, and presents to the amount of five or six hundred thousand dollars, were to be forced on board the frigate and carried to Constantinople at the entire risk of the United States. If in the new and dangerous navigation to that place accidents happened to the Dey's property, the United States would be held responsible to indemnify him ; if any cruisers of the Portuguese, Neapolitans, or other powers at war with Algiers, should meet the *George Washington*, and capture her, still the United States would be bound to reimburse the loss ; and the American vessels in the Mediterranean would be instantly seized by the Algerines as a security for it. Should he be more fortunate and beat off these enemies, they might consider this cover of Algerine property as a violation of neutrality, and think themselves justified in retaliating on the defenceless commerce of the United States in the Mediterranean. Besides which, he would deviate from his orders by undertaking, for six months, a voyage not sanctioned by his government. On the other hand, a refusal to comply would occasion the detention of the frigate, which was now

in the power of the Dey, and be followed by an immediate declaration of war against the United States, for this alleged breach of the treaty, and a seizure of all American vessels in the Mediterranean. In this situation Captain Bainbridge opposed the Dey as long and as vigorously as possible. The Dey promised that if a Swedish frigate, which was then expected, arrived, he would take her in place of the *George Washington*. But she did not come. A British twenty-four gun ship arrived and offered to carry the presents. This, however, the Dey refused, because he would not be under obligations to England; and at last, exasperated by opposition, he sent for Captain Bainbridge and the Consul, and peremptorily demanded that the frigate should go to Constantinople, threatening, in case of refusal, to make slaves of all the Americans in Algiers, to detain the frigate, and send out his cruisers against the defenceless trade of the United States. The liberty of his countrymen, and the safety of the American commerce, decided Captain Bainbridge at last to smother his indignation at this unpleasant and humiliating service, and he consented to receive the Algerine ambassador.

Another difference arose about the flag: Captain Bainbridge declared that the frigate should carry her own colours; But the Dey insisted that the flag of Algiers should be worn during the voyage. It was vain to resist, however mortifying to obey.

They sailed from Algiers on the nineteenth of October. The winds were unfavourable, the weather bad, and the society of the Turks not calculated to console the officers for these inconveniences; but they submitted with as good a grace as possible to a humiliation which they deemed

necessary for their country's service. The frigate anchored at the lower end of Constantinople in twenty-three days from her departure, and the next morning, the 12th of November, the American flag was hoisted at the mizen, the Algerine at the main. Soon afterwards three officers, in succession, were sent on board by the Grand Seignior, to inquire what ship that was, and what colours she had hoisted. They were told it was an American frigate and an American flag.—They said they did not know any such country. Captain Bainbridge then explained that America was the New World—by which name they had some idea of the country. After these inquiries the frigate came into harbour, saluted the Grand Seignior's palace with twenty-one guns, and proceeded to unload the Algerine cargo. The Ambassador was not permitted to have his audience before the arrival of the Capudan Pacha, or High Admiral from Egypt, and it was necessary for the frigate to wait the result. Captain Bainbridge endeavoured to employ the interval in giving to the Turkish government a favourable impression of a country, of which his ship and crew were the only specimens they had ever an opportunity of seeing. At this time an embassy to Constantinople was projected, and William L. Smith, Esq. then minister of the United States in Portugal, was designated as the American Ambassador. It was therefore desirable that his arrival should be preceded by as advantageous an opinion as possible of his country. How well Captain Bainbridge succeeded in making these impressions, we may learn from the following unsuspecting testimony of a distinguished traveller, Mr. Clarke, who was then at Constantinople, and with whom Captain Bainbridge contracted a friendly intimacy.

“The arrival of an American frigate, for the first time, at Constantinople, caused considerable sensation, not only among the Turks, but also throughout the whole diplomatic corps stationed in Pera. This ship, commanded by Captain Bainbridge, came from Algiers, with a letter and presents from the Dey to the Sultan and Cupudan Pacha. The presents consisted of Tigers and other animals, sent with a view to conciliate the Turkish government, whom the Dey had offended. When she came to an anchor, and a message went to the Porte that an American frigate was in the harbour, the Turks were altogether unable to comprehend where the country was situated whose flag they had to salute. A great deal of time was therefore lost in settling this important point, and in considering how to receive the stranger. In the mean time we went on board to visit the Captain ; and were sitting with him in his cabin, when a messenger came from the Turkish government to ask whether America was not otherwise called the New World ; and, being answered in the affirmative, assured the Captain that he was welcome, and would be treated with the utmost cordiality and respect. The messengers from the Dey was then ordered on board the Capudan Pacha’s ship ; who, receiving the letter from their sovereign with great rage, first spat, and then stamped upon it ; telling him to go back to their master, and inform him that he would be served after the same manner, whenever the Turkish Admiral met him. Captain Bainbridge was, however, received with every mark of attention, and rewarded with magnificent presents.* The fine

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* The only presents received were a shawl and a fur cloak ; together worth about four hundred dollars.

order of his ship, and the healthy state of her crew, became topics of general conversation in Pera; and the different Ministers strove who should receive him in their palaces. We accompanied him in his long boat to the Black Sea, as he was desirous of hoisting there, for the first time, the American flag; and, upon his return, were amused by a very singular entertainment at his table during dinner. Upon the four corners were as many decanters, containing fresh water from as many quarters of the globe. The natives of Europe, Asia, Africa and America, sat down together, to the same table, and were regaled with flesh, fruit, bread, and other viands; while of every article, a sample from each quarter of the globe was presented at the same time. The means of accomplishing this are easily explained, by his having touched at Algiers, in his passage from America, and being at anchor so near the shore both of Europe and Asia."

On the arrival of the Capudan Pacha, the Algerine Ambassador was denied an audience, and both his letters and presents refused, on account of the many depredations committed by Algiers on the commerce of Austria and other nations friendly to the Porte, and also for having made peace with France, without consulting the Grand Seignior. The Ambassador and his suite were not suffered to leave their houses, the Dey of Algiers was ordered to declare war against France, and sixty days allowed to receive in Constantinople the account of his compliance, on pain of immediate war.

Captain Bainbridge was, however, received by the Capudan Pacha, with distinguished politeness. He took the frigate under his immediate protection; requested Captain Bainbridge to haul down

the Algerine flag and carry the American; and being fond of ship-building and naval affairs, conceived, from the seaman-like conduct of the officers, and the state of the frigate, a high idea of the American marine character. These attentions were peculiarly grateful, as this officer was related by marriage to the Grand Seignior, and supposed to possess great influence in public affairs. He afterwards addressed a friendly letter to Mr. Smith, the expected Ambassador, and the two countries might have formed a commercial treaty under very favourable auspices; but the mission to Constantinople was afterwards discontinued by our government. The different diplomatic characters at Constantinople paid to Captain Bainbridge very marked civilities—more particularly Lord Elgin, the British, and Baron de Hubsch, the Danish Ambassador. Every thing being at length arranged, the George Washington sailed from Constantinople in the month of December, carrying the Turkish Ambassador's Secretary back to Algiers, with an account of the unfavourable result of his embassy.

This voyage to Constantinople, though irksome to the officers, was ultimately the means of acquiring much honour to the United States, and might have been rendered highly serviceable.—Fortunately for us, the George Washington arrived suddenly before Constantinople, which no Christian vessel was permitted to do—the laws of the Porte requiring that all foreign vessels should wait one hundred and twenty miles below the city, in order to obtain leave to come up; and as the American flag and nation were then unknown, and the ministers of foreign powers would of course have been unwilling to see a young adventurous people admitted to share the advantages

of a trade which they were enjoying exclusively, the probability is that the frigate never would have reached Constantinople. Arriving, however, as she did, a fine ship, with an excellent crew in the best discipline, she gave the Turks a high idea of the naval character of the United States—a character which they have since seen us sustain with so much glory in the war with Tripoli. After landing some Turks at Malta, as a favour to the Capudan Pacha, Captain Bainbridge arrived off Algiers on the twenty-first of January. Warned by his past misfortune, he did not venture his frigate within reach of the fort, but sent the Ambassador's Secretary on shore in a boat, although the Dey desired that he would come into port to discharge some guns, belonging to Algiers, which he had taken in there, as ballast for the voyage to Constantinople. The Dey however, insisted, and Captain Bainbridge, fearful of the consequences to the unprotected commerce of the United States, again ventured within the Dey's power, delivered the old guns, and took other ballast. The tyrant was now so effectually humbled by the orders of the Grand Seignior, that he instantly released four hundred prisoners, who had been taken with British and Austrian passports, and declared war against France. Finding too that Captain Bainbridge was on friendly terms with the Capudan Pacha, his menaces softened into great mildness. After having been thus instrumental in the release of so many prisoners, Captain Bainbridge was now enabled to serve the interests of humanity in another way. On the declaration of war with France, the Consul and all the French subjects, then in Algiers, were ordered to leave the country in forty-eight hours, and as their longer stay would have exposed them to captivity, they were all taken on board the *George Washington*.

He sailed from Algiers about the last of January, and after landing the French passengers at Alicant, arrived at Philadelphia in the month of April, 1801, and received the marked approbation of the Government for his conduct, during this long, unpleasant, and indelicate service. Before his return, the cessation of hostilities with France, had caused a reduction of the navy, and there were retained only nine Captains, of whom he had the satisfaction of finding himself one. In the following June, he received the command of the frigate *Essex*. About this time the regency of Tripoli, emboldened by the success of the Algerines, commenced hostilities against the United States; to oppose which, a squadron of frigates, among which was the *Essex*, was sent to the Mediterranean. Here he continued for thirteen or fourteen months, engaged in convoying American ships and other neutrals in the Mediterranean, and cruising against the Tripolitan ships of war, with none of which, however, he had the good fortune to engage. He returned to New-York in July, 1802, and remained on shore for about nine months, engaged in superintending the building of the United States' brigs *Syren* and *Vixen*.

In May, 1803, he was appointed to command the *Philadelphia*, a frigate built by the merchants of Philadelphia, and presented to the government of the United States. He sailed in her from the port of Philadelphia, in July, 1803, for the Mediterranean, to join the squadron then under Commodore Preble. On reaching Gibraltar, he heard of two Tripolitan cruizers off Cape de Gatt, and immediately shaped his course after them. On the 26th of August, he discovered a ship with a brig in company, both under a fore-sail only. As it was night, the wind blowing very

fresh, and the ship's guns housed, it was not till the Philadelphia hailed her, that she proved to be a vessel of war, from the coast of Barbary. On ordering her boat on board with the ship's passports, she was found to be the *Mirboha*, a cruiser of twenty-two guns, and one hundred and ten men, from Morocco, and by concealing from the Moorish officer who came on board, the nation to which the *Essex* belonged, he was led to mention that the brig was an American going to Spain, whom they had boarded, but not detained. The low sail under which the brig was, however, exciting some suspicion, Captain Bainbridge sent his first Lieutenant, to examine if the ship had any American prisoners; but he was prevented by the Captain of the ship. A boat well manned and armed was sent to enforce a compliance, and they found on board, the American Captain of the brig, who, with his crew, were all confined below, the brig having been captured by the Moorish cruiser nine days before. After this act of hostility, Captain Bainbridge had no hesitation in making prize of the ship, which was immediately manned from the *Philadelphia*, and the two ships proceeded to cruise for the brig, which had made off during this examination. It was not till after a search among a fleet of vessels, all the next day, that she was discovered, pursued and taken, and both vessels carried into Gibraltar.

On board the *Mirboha*, were cruising orders from the Governor of Tangier, which proved the hostile disposition of the Emperor of Morocco, who was about letting loose his forces against the American commerce. The capture of one of his finest ships, at the commencement of his scheme, convinced him of the folly of it, and afforded

Commodore Preble, on his arrival at Gibraltar, the means of bringing the Emperor to a speedy and permanent peace with the United States.

While he was detained by this negotiation, Captain Bainbridge, in company with the *Vixen*, Captain Smith, had proceeded to blockade the harbour of Tripoli. Here he soon received information, that a Tripolitan cruiser had escaped from the port, and he despatched the *Vixen* to cruise off Cape Bon in quest of her. After her departure, the *Philadelphia* was driven from her cruising ground for several days, by the prevalence of strong westerly gales; but the wind having changed to the eastward, she was returning to her station, when, on the thirty-first of October, not many leagues to the east of the town, at about nine o'clock in the morning, a strange ship was seen in shore, to which chase was immediately given. The chase kept as close in shore as she dared, and ran for the harbour of Tripoli. The *Philadelphia* continued to chase along the land, not venturing into shoaler water than seven fathoms, and keeping up a constant fire; but finding she could not cut the chase off from the harbour, gave up the pursuit and hauled her wind to the northward, which was directly off from the land; when, about half after eleven o'clock, as she was going at the rate of six or seven knots, she ran upon rocks about four miles and an half from the town. These rocks are a continuation of a reef, which directly opposite the town are above water, and extend a long distance to the eastward. They were not laid down in any charts on board, nor had they been discovered by our public ships, which had before cruised on this coast; nor, although three leads were kept heaving, were they perceived till she struck. Great

exertions were instantly made to float the ship. A part of the guns were thrown overboard ; the anchors cut away from the bows ; the water started ; the foremast cut away ; but all to no purpose. As soon as she had grounded, the gunboats came out to attack her. They took a position on her quarters ; but her stern-chasers compelled them to change their station ; and while the ship continued upright, with the few guns that could be brought to bear, she could keep the enemy at a distance ; but she soon lay over so much on one side, that she could not use her guns. At length she could not sustain the enemy's fire for between five or six hours, and seeing no chance of getting the ship off, a council of war was called of all the officers, who gave a unanimous opinion, that as it was impossible to defend themselves, or to annoy the enemy, any further show of resistance would only expose the lives of the crew, and that the painful alternative of surrender, was all that remained for them. The magazine was therefore drowned ; the arms and every article of value thrown overboard ; the ship scuttled ; the pumps choaked, and the colours were then hauled down at five o'clock. One of the boats was sent to acquaint the enemy that the ship would make no further resistance. " On approaching the enemy," says one of the officers employed on this occasion, " we were hailed by almost every one, and each ordered us along side of his boat. One, however, fired a shot, which struck near us, and presuming him to be the Commodore, we rowed towards him, when one of the near gun boats, perceiving we were not coming to him, manned his boat and came after us. There were about fifteen men in this boat, all armed with pistols, with sabres, and a

long musket suspended over their backs. They were a ferocious and savage set. They sprang into our boat, and immediately two seized Lieutenant Porter, and two others seized me. My coat was soon off, my vest unbuttoned, and my cravat torn from my neck. I thought, for my own part, I should not have time to count my beads; but we soon perceived, that their violence was only with the view of getting from us whatever money or valuables we might have concealed about our persons. We now proceeded towards the shore, the gun-boat men continuing in our boat. It was just dark when we approached the beach, which was covered with people, armed and shouting most hideously, and landed, amidst the shouts of the populace, by whom we were pushed about rudely. We were conducted to the gate of the Pacha's castle, followed by the crowd. Here we were detained some minutes, his Highness not being ready to receive us. We were, however, at length ushered into his presence. We now felt ourselves safe. The Pacha was seated in state, with his ministers and principal officers about him, and surrounded by a numerous guard. We were desired to be seated, while the boat's crew stood at some distance back. A variety of questions were put to us; how many men were in the Philadelphia? how many guns had she? were any of the guns of brass? how much powder was there? was there any money in the ship? where was Commodore Morris? where was the schooner Enterprise? &c. Three glasses of sherbet were brought, one for each of us, of which we drank."

The same scene of plunder was renewed when the Tripolitans came on board. They took from Captain Bainbridge his watch, and epaulets, and

the cravat from his neck ; but with much struggling and difficulty he saved the miniature of his wife. When he was brought into the castle, the same set of questions was repeated by the Pacha, who observed, among other things that the fortune of war had placed Captain Bainbridge in his present situation. They were then sent to another apartment, where a supper was provided for the officers ; after which they were brought in a body before the Pacha, who gratified himself by taking a view of them collectively. The complacency with which he surveyed them, his cheerful and animated countenance, sufficiently denoted his satisfaction at seeing them. His reception of them, however, made favourable impressions of his character. He presented them to his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sidi Muhamed Dghies, who was to have charge of them, and who, the Bashaw, observed, would take good care of them. This indeed they found to be strictly true ; for they were now conducted to the house of the late American Consul, and, although it was by this time one o'clock in the morning, the Minister sent for the Danish Consul, Mr. Nissen, whom he introduced to Captain Bainbridge as his particular friend, and one who would render the Officers every service in his power. This estimable man immediately brought refreshments, and all the bedding which he could collect at that hour ; and about two o'clock the Officers lay down to sleep, as well as their new and terrible misfortune would permit them. The next day the Minister of Foreign Affairs requested Captain Bainbridge and his Officers, to give their parole, in order that he might, in turn, pledge his word to the Pacha for their safety. This was complied with. The Officers also presented an unanimous address to the

Captain, in which they stated their belief, that the charts and soundings justified as near an approach to the shore as they had made ; and declaring, that on this as on every other occasion, his conduct had always been correct and honourable. Soothed by this proof of confidence and attachment, Captain Bainbridge endeavoured to render the situation of his officers and crew as comfortable as possible. The Consular house was commodious, and although not large enough for the accommodation of so many persons, was at least airy, and the atmosphere they breathed was pure. About a fortnight after this, however, the Pacha's Minister acquainted Captain Bainbridge, that letters had been received from the Tripolitans who had been taken by Captain Rodgers, in the John Adams, complaining of being ill-treated by him, and Captain Bainbridge was requested to sign an order upon Commodore Preble, to give up these Tripolitan prisoners, with a declaration, that if he refused, the ill-treatment shown to the Tripolitan prisoners should be retaliated upon the Officers of the Philadelphia. Captain Bainbridge peremptorily refused to sign this order, and accordingly by way of punishment, they were conducted by the slave driver to the prison, where the crew were confined at work. Here they remained one day, when the Tripolitan government, finding Captain Brainbridge's firmness not to be shaken, they were reconducted in the evening to the Consular house, and an apology received from the Minister for the indignity they had suffered. Here they continued, and were permitted occasionally to walk out to the country in small parties, accompanied by a guard.

On the sixteenth of February, 1804, the Philadelphia was burnt by Decatur. This mortified the

Pacha exceedingly ; though he affected to consider it as the fortune of war. Some of the bodies of persons who were known to have been on board the *Philadelphia*, floated ashore, from which the Pacha pretended to believe that Decatur, after getting clear of the harbour, had, in cold blood, killed the prisoners. This was the pretext for increasing the severity of their confinement. Accordingly, they were removed to apartments in the Pacha's castle, exceedingly small, and but ill adapted to accommodate so many. They were without windows, and all the light, as well as fresh air, was admitted through a small opening at the top, grated over with iron railing. The door was constantly bolted and watched by a strong guard, as was also the top of the prison. The atmosphere they breathed, while thus closely confined, soon became unhealthy, and Captain Bainbridge repeatedly represented to the Minister, that they could not exist so crowded together and with such confined air. After much delay, and when the warm weather came on, and they were all getting sick, these accommodations were enlarged by the addition of other rooms. Still they were much crowded, and they could not have sustained such confinement, but that the climate of Tripoli is the mildest and most delightful in the world, While in this confinement, they were sometimes, when none of the American cruisers were off, permitted to walk into the country ; but there was one period of nearly eight months, that they were not allowed this indulgence, and these eight months included one whole summer, a season when the weather was warm, and consequently they most needed exercise and fresh air. They continued in this confinement until the peace of June, 1805.

The conduct of the Pacha and his officers was,

however, far more mild than they had been led to anticipate, and even this rigorous confinement was imposed, not so much with a view to make them suffer, as because the Pacha thought it the only mode by which he could secure them. He was very apprehensive on this point. The Danish Consul endeavoured to explain to the Tripolitan government the nature of a parole among Europeans; and assured the government, that by getting them to pledge their honour, they would make no attempt to escape, and should be more safe than by all his guards, his bolts and his bars; but this the Pacha could not understand, and he could not be made to believe that any prisoner who had the chance to escape, would be deterred from doing so merely because he had passed his word. It was debated in the Divan, whether it would not be advisable to put the officers to hard labour, under the idea that Commodore Preble, as soon as he heard of it, would, on their account, be more solicitous for peace. But it was justly concluded, that it would have a contrary tendency; that it would irritate and exasperate their countrymen, and induce a more vigorous prosecution of the war. The project was therefore abandoned.

When the news was received that General Eaton had taken Derne, and in conjunction with the dethroned Pacha, was advancing towards Tripoli, Eaton's force was greatly exaggerated, and the Pacha became alarmed. He sent word to Captain Bainbridge, that heretofore he considered the war as one of interest only; that the United States prosecuted it in order to get away their countrymen for as small a sum of money as possible, and that he continued it to get as much as possible for his prisoners; but that now the Ame-

ricans had made common cause with his exiled brother, and that consequently, he must succeed against Eaton or lose his kingdom ; that he had the means of injuring the feelings of the American people in a most delicate point, (meaning by putting the prisoners to death) and that in a case of extremity he should enforce these means. The Pacha thought to alarm Captain Bainbridge, and induce him to write to the Commodore or to Eaton. Captain Bainbridge, however, replied, that he and his officers were in the power of the Pacha, and that he might do with them as he pleased ; that the United States had many officers and seamen, and that consequently they should be no loss to their country. The spirited reply saved him from any more such messages. It is impossible to say whether the Pacha would or would not have gone to this extremity. He is a man of strong passions, and ambitious ; and had he been driven from his kingdom, he might have been urged to this violence ; as it cannot be supposed, that he should entertain the same sentiments of abhorrence at the atrocity of sacrificing his prisoners, as would be felt by an European. A place in the interior had certainly been fixed on as a place of security for them, in case it became necessary to remove them from the capital.

While thus confined, without exercise or change of scene, their time, it may be easily imagined, passed heavily. But their youth and the hardy frame of mind, created by their profession, were qualified to resist for a long time, the depressing effects of misfortune. After the short interval of unavailing regret had passed, they collected their spirits and resources, and endeavoured to derive amusement and occupation from every quarter.

When they were taken, they lost all their clothes.

The officers of the Vixen, as soon as they heard of this circumstance, sent a part of their clothes, which came very seasonably. Soon after, some of their own was brought to the prison, for sale, and each officer, having thus an opportunity of purchasing some of his former wardrobe, they had a sufficient supply. Some of their books were also taken to them to be sold, and were purchased from the Tripolitans, to whom they were entirely useless, at a price generally much below their value.

These furnished the means of constant employment, as their officers were enabled to pursue their studies to which they were attached, and the prison became a sort of academy, in which navigation, the French language, and other instructive studies were cultivated. Occasionally too, they found some relief against ennui in theatrical performances. Among the books purchased was an odd volume of plays, containing the *Castle Spectre*, the *Heir at Law*, the *Stranger*, and *Secrets Worth Knowing*. These were successively *got up* and performed. This resource was husbanded very carefully. Thus they were busily occupied some time in preparing the scenery, then the dresses, then in rehearsing, and finally, after great exertions for three or four weeks, the theatre was opened. The scenery was painted in such colours as could be procured; the gayer dresses of the ladies were formed of sheets, while black silk handkerchiefs sewed together furnished suits of wo; and leaves and paper completed the materials of the female toilet. After this, criticisms upon the performance and dresses of the several actors and actresses, kept them alive, and sometimes cheerful for a fortnight; and now again they began to prepare for another play.

Another great resource was, that sometimes they received letters from their friends in America. This indeed was rare ; but it always had a most lively and permanent effect upon them. Their greatest comfort, however, certainly was, that they were all kept together. Had they been separated, and deprived of the support of each other's society, they could not have survived so long a captivity.

Among their comforts too, the active and friendly humanity of Mr. Nissen, the Danish Consul must not be forgotten—a gentleman whose generous, manly and honourable conduct should be connected with every mention of the Tripolitan war. While the other agents of foreign countries, the French, English and Spanish Consuls, kept aloof from some paltry consideration of timidity, or commercial jealousy, or wrote to the captives a cold and formal and complimentary and unmeaning offer of service, Mr. Nissen came forward at once, and from the first to the last hour of their captivity, was a constant, unremitting, anxious, and affectionate friend. Money, clothes, books, every thing which could contribute to render the situation of the captives less irksome, was lavished by the friendly zeal of Mr. Nissen. When the period of their captivity was about expiring, they addressed him a letter of thanks for his disinterested friendship : and as soon as they were released, presented to him an urn, as a lasting monument of his benevolence and their friendship.

Besides other modes of occupying their time, their minds were frequently excited by hopes and efforts to escape. An attempt was made in the latter end of April, 1804, to undermine the castle and escape under the wall. They commenced digging in the room of the warrant officers ; but

after working for four days, they reached at the depth of twenty-five feet, a loose sand and water, and found that the foundation of the castle was built upon made ground of so loose a texture, that it was impracticable to undermine it horizontally the requisite distance, which was one hundred and fifty yards, without boards to prop it and prevent its falling in ; and as they had none of these they were obliged to look to some other means of escape. In the following May they adopted another scheme. One of the inner walls of the prison communicated with a subterraneous passage which they hoped would lead to the outward wall of the castle, and by perforating this they expected to find a passage into the town. Accordingly they began to take out one by one the stones of this wall, which were carefully replaced to avoid suspicion. For this labour they had nothing but their case-knives, a dull axe and an iron bolt ; but they at last got into a long, dark, subterraneous passage, which they followed for some time, till their progress was stopped by another wall. This they perforated ; but to their surprise and mortification, they found a space of made earth, or terrace, on which the top of the castle rested. They were not, however, disheartened, but began to excavate a space large enough for a man to crawl in upon his hands and knees, carefully removing the earth to a distance, and scattering it through the subterranean passage ; but they had not made much progress, before the movements of the soldiers and the great weight on the top of the terrace made it cave in, and destroyed the whole enterprise. Fortunately the suspicions of the guard were not excited, and the plan remained undiscovered.

Another and more bold attempt had no better

success. It was intended to reach, by a difficult and dangerous way, to the window at the top of the prison, through which they were to get on the terrace, and taking advantage of some moment when the guards were asleep or inattentive, cross the terrace, a distance of fifty or sixty yards, to the parapet of the wall. In one of the embrasures of this they were to make fast a rope, formed of all the sheets tied together, and descend the height of ninety feet to the beach. The first who got down were to swim to a Spanish vessel about half a mile off, cut her boat adrift and bring it ashore, and the whole party were then to embark and endeavour to gain the American squadron.

This plan was confined to Captain Bainbridge and a few of the original projectors of it. On the eve of its execution, Captain Bainbridge wrote to the Tripolitan minister to inform him, that as no regard had been paid to their parole, he deemed himself justified in attempting to regain his liberty, and recommending the officers who should be left behind to his particular care and attention. To those officers themselves he addressed a note, stating, that as all could not make the attempt, it was necessarily confined to its projectors; that the escape of himself and so many officers would enable them to render the greatest services to those who remained, and hasten the period of their liberation, by lessening the sum to be demanded by the Tripolitans. When these arrangements were concluded, the party reached the window, but it blew so violent a gale of wind, that they were obliged to postpone the project; and Captain Bainbridge, finding that his departure excited uneasiness in the minds of some of the officers, abandoned the expedition, and determined to share their fate. The attempt was then made

by three Lieutenants and as many Midshipmen. At midnight, on the twenty-first day of May, they reached the terrace, and remained there for nearly two hours, endeavouring to seek a moment to cross to the parapet ; but the terrace was covered with guards, and they found no opportunity of getting off. The failure of this scheme put an end to all plans of escape, and they patiently waited their liberation from the hands of their countrymen.

During the bombardment of the town, they were the melancholy and inactive witnesses of the efforts of their countrymen. The burning of the Philadelphia, the explosion of the fire-ship, commanded by Captain Somers, and the various attacks made on the town, all passed before their eyes. Sometimes too they were exposed from their situation to great danger. On one occasion, a twenty-four pound shot came into Captain Bainbridge's bed-room and passed within six inches of his head.

While the officers were confined, the men were kept at work during the day and locked up at night. The work, however, which was required of them was always light, and nothing more than wholesome exercise. It was scarcely as severe as the ordinary duty which is exacted from them on board ship. The Tripolitans are, generally speaking, and excepting the people employed in the gun-boats, of a mild, humane character. The prisoners were often obstinate, uncomplying and mischievous ; yet the Tripolitans who had charge of them were rarely provoked to punish them.— They used often to say, that the Americans were the most difficult to manage of any people they had ever seen. Several of the crew turned Mahometans, and thus gained their freedom ; but the

rest remained faithful to their country and their religion.

It would be unjust not to record an instance of the generosity of these seamen. Among the drivers who superintended them while at work was a Neapolitan, himself a captive, who had often relented into pity for them and done them acts of kindness. Touched by this treatment, the crew, as they were about to leave Tripoli, made a subscription out of their wages of between three and four hundred dollars, with which they purchased the liberty of the Neapolitan, who was thus restored at the same time with themselves to freedom and his country.

At last Colonel Lear appeared off the harbour to negotiate a peace with Tripoli. The first overtures were embarrassed by the employment of the Spanish Consul, who was at length put aside, and Captain Bainbridge proposed, as the shortest mode of pacification, that he should be permitted to visit the squadron. This request was so new in Barbary, that the officers of the Philadelphia were obliged to give a written declaration, that in case he did not return they would submit to any punishment the Pacha might inflict. Under this guarantee he had an interview with the American officers, and a treaty was at last concluded between the two countries ; by which the American and Tripolitan prisoners were exchanged, and the sum of sixty thousand dollars given to the Pacha. On the third of June, 1805, the officers were liberated after a confinement of nineteen months and three days ; and on the fourth they, as well as the crew, embarked on board the squadron, and soon after sailed for America.

Captain Bainbridge reached the United States in the autumn of 1805, and the reception which

he met from his country was such as to satisfy completely the feelings of a meritorious, but unfortunate officer. He was received rather as a returning conqueror than as a vanquished prisoner—a most unequivocal proof of public confidence, since that merit must indeed be sterling which could stand the test of such misfortunes. Nor were the opinions of his brother officers less honourable and liberal. At his request a court of inquiry had been held on the loss of the frigate, and the judgment of the court was, that it “was decidedly of opinion that Captain Bainbridge acted with fortitude and good conduct in the loss of the United States’ frigate Philadelphia; and that no degree of censure should attach itself to him from that event.”

Early in 1806, he was ordered to take the command of the naval station at New-York; but soon after, obtained a furlough to perform a voyage in the merchant service; which, from the reduced state of his funds had become necessary to make some provision for his family. He returned in 1807, and was employed in various naval duties, until March, 1808, when he was appointed to the Portland station, which had become vacant by the death of Commodore Preble. In December following, he was called to Washington, to superintend the repairs of the frigate *President*, which he was appointed to command. Having completed the ship, he sailed in July 1809, from Washington, and cruised on our coast till the next spring, when he again obtained permission from the navy department to engage in the merchant service.

Having returned from his mercantile pursuit in February, 1812, he was appointed to the command of the navy-yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts, and the public vessels on the eastern station.

On the declaration of war against Great Britain, it was submitted by the government to his town inclination, either to retain his post at the navy-yard, or to cruise against the enemy on the ocean. Accustomed to a life of active service, and preferring the hazard of warfare and the chance of victory, to the security of inaction, he did not hesitate to choose the former, and was accordingly appointed to command the frigate *Constellation*; but on the arrival at Boston of Captain Hull, after his victory over the British frigate *Guerriere*, he applied for a furlough to attend to his private concerns, and Commodore Bainbridge was permitted to take command of the *Constitution*. In a few weeks he sailed, in company with the sloop of war *Hornet*, Captain Lawrence, on a cruise to the East-Indies. After parting company with Captain Lawrence, he was running down the coast of Brazil, when on Thursday, the 29th of December, he discovered, about nine in the morning, two sail, one of which was standing off shore towards him. He immediately made sail to meet the strange ship, and finding, as he approached her, that she did not answer his private signals, proceeded out to sea in order to separate her from her companion, and draw her off the neutral coast. About one o'clock, having reached what he considered a proper distance from the shore, he hoisted his ensign and pendant which was answered by English colours and perceiving that she was an English frigate (the *Java*, Captain Lambert) he took in the royals, tacked, and stood for the enemy. The *Java* immediately bore down, intended to rake, which the *Constitution* avoided by wearing. The enemy being now within half a mile windward, and having hauled down his flag, the *Constitution* fired a gun ahead

to make him show his colours, and immediately poured in her a whole broadside, on which English colours were hoisted, and the fire returned. On this, the action became general, within grape and canister distance. In a few minutes the wheel of the Constitution was shot away; and in about half an hour, Commodore Bainbridge finding that his adversary still kept too far off, determined to close with him at the risk of being raked. He therefore luffed up so close to the Java, that in passing, her jib-boom got foul of the Constitution's mizen rigging; and having now gained a nearer position, he poured in so well directed a fire, that in ten minutes he shot away the Java's jib-boom and part of the bowsprit; in five minutes more her foremast went by the board—her maintopmast followed—then the gaff and spanker boom, and lastly, the mizen-mast went nearly by the board. At five minutes past four, one hour and fifty-five minutes from the commencement of the action, the Java's fire was completely silenced, and her colours being down, Commodore Bainbridge supposed that she had struck: he therefore shot ahead to repair his rigging; but while hove to for that purpose, discovered that her colours were still flying, although her mainmast had just gone by the board. He therefore bore down again upon her, and having got close athwart her bows, was on the point of raking her with a broadside, when she hauled down her colours, being a completely unmanageable wreck, entirely dismasted, without a spar of any kind standing. On boarding her, it was found that Captain Lambert had been mortally wounded, and that the Java was so much injured, that it would be impossible to bring her to the United States. All the prisoners and the baggage were therefore brought on board the Consti-

tution, a service which it required two days to perform, there being but a single boat left between the two frigates. On the 31st she was blown up, and the Constitution put into St. Salvador. The Java carried forty-nine guns, and upwards of four hundred men : she was bound to the East-Indies, and had, in addition to her own crew, upwards of one hundred supernumerary officers and seamen, for different ships on the East-India station—among whom was a master and Commander in the navy, and also Lieutenant-General Hislop and his two aids, of the British navy.

Her loss was sixty killed ; and among these Captain Lambert. Of the wounded, the accounts varied from one hundred and one (which were ascertained positively) to one hundred and seventy.

On board the Constitution, nine were killed, and twenty-five wounded ; among whom was the Commodore himself.

This victory was scarcely less honourable to Commodore Bainbridge, than the generosity with which he exercised the rights of a conqueror.—While on board, the prisoners were treated with the most respectful attention. Immediately on their landing at St. Salvador, they were set at liberty on parole, and received every article of their baggage : and particularly, a service of plate belonging to General Hislop, was carefully preserved and restored to him. These proofs of honourable courtesy were not lost on the prisoners, who expressed their gratitude in a manner as creditable to themselves as to the victors.

The decayed state of the Constitution, and other circumstances, combining to interfere with the original plan of the cruise, Commodore Bainbridge now left the Hornet to blockade a superior

British force at St. Salvador, and returned to the United States.

On his arrival at Boston, he was received with an enthusiastic welcome by his countrymen, who felt peculiar pleasure in seeing that fortune had at last relented, and given him an opportunity of adding success to the merit. Fifty thousand dollars prize-money, as a compensation for the loss of the *Java*, were given by Congress to the officers and crew, and a gold medal presented to the Commodore himself. These were followed by votes of thanks and testimonials of respect, from several of the state legislatures, and also from various corporate bodies and meetings of the citizens generally.

Since his return, he has been appointed to command the Eastern station, from Portsmouth to Connecticut, within which limits he has had charge of the *Constitution* and two brigs ; and the construction of two sloops of war and a seventy-four.

The arrangement of the differences of the United States with Great Britain did not let him remain long in the inaction of peace. Having superintended the building of the *Independence*, a ship of 74 guns, he had the honour of waving his flag on board the first line of battle ship belonging to the United States, that ever floated. The hostile demeanour of the government of Barbary, induced the American government, in 1815, to equip two squadrons, one under Decatur, and another under Bainbridge, for the Mediterranean, to use the *lex talionis* of kings, to bring them to a due sense of the estimation in which the people of the United States ought to be held. His squadron consisted of the *Independence*, 74, flag-ship ; sloop of War, *Erie*, 18 guns ; brig *Chippewa*, 18 guns ; and schooner *Lynx*. In his voyage

to the Mediterranean, he found his ship to exceed his most sanguine expectations, and the alacrity of Commodore Decatur, in bringing the Barbary powers to a peaceful demeanour, left him on his arrival in that sea, no share of the honours he expected to reap from the object of his destination.

He arrived in the harbour of Carthagen, in Spain, on the 5th of August, 1815, and on the 10th of the same month, informed the Secretary of the Navy, by letter, that peace having taken place with the Regency of Algiers, it only remained for him to obey the Secretary's instructions, by showing his squadron off Tunis and Tripoli, leaving one frigate and two smaller vessels in the gut of Gibraltar, and returning to Newport, R. Island, with the residue of his squadron, where he expected to arrive some time in the following September.

According to his instructions, he presented himself before Algiers, and exhibited his force. He then presented himself before Tripoli, where he had the mortification to find that Commodore Decatur had shorn him of his expected laurels, by a previous visit.

After running down the Barbary coast, he arrived in Malaga Roads, on the 13th of September, where he remained some days waiting to form a junction with Commodore Decatur's squadron. As soon as this was effected, he sailed for the United States and arrived at Newport (Rhode Island) on the 15th of November, 1815, leaving, under Captain Shaw, the senior officer, the frigates United States and Constellation, and the sloops of war Ontario and Erie, to enforce a due respect among the Barbary States to the conditions of the late peace.

CAPTAIN

LEWIS WARRINGTON.

LEWIS WARRINGTON is a native of Virginia, and was partly educated at Williamsburg college.

At the age of about fifteen, he being appointed a midshipman in the United States' navy, joined the frigate Chesapeake, then lying at Norfolk, in February, 1800. In this ship he cruised on the West-India station till May 1801, when she returned to the United States, and then went on board the frigate President, under Commodore Dale. This ship soon after sailed for the Mediterranean, where she remained until 1802, blockading Tripoli. The President, in May, 1802, returned to the United States, and Mr. Warrington then joined the frigate New-York, in which ship he once more sailed for the Mediterranean, and returned in June, 1803, to this country in the Chesapeake frigate. On his return, he was immediately ordered to the Vixen, then commanded by Captain Smith, late of the Franklin, seventy-four, deceased. In this vessel Warrington again sailed for the Mediterranean in August, 1803, and remained in her during the attacks on the gun-boats and batteries of Tripoli, in which the Vixen always took a part. In the month of November, 1804, he was made acting Lieutenant, and in July the next year, went on board the brig Syren, as junior Lieutenant. In March, 1806, he joined the Enterprise, as first Lieutenant, and in July, 1807, returned to the United States, after an absence of four years.

On Lieutenant Warrington's return to the United States, he was ordered to the command of a gun-boat on the Norfolk station, where Commodore Decatur commanded at that time.

He continued in the command of a gun-boat, until February, 1809, when he was again ordered to the *Syren* as first Lieutenant. On the return of this vessel from Europe, whither she went with despatches, he was ordered to the *Essex*, as her first Lieutenant, in September the same year. In this ship he cruised on the American coast, and again carried out despatches for government, returning in August, 1812. He was then ordered to the frigate *Congress*, as her first Lieutenant, and sailed in her on the declaration of war, in company with the squadron under Commodore Rodgers, intended to intercept the British West-India fleet. The escape of this fleet was peculiarly fortunate to Great Britain, as Commodore Rodgers passed and repassed them with his squadron repeatedly ; but for thirteen or fourteen days, with very little intermission, the fog was so thick that his vessels could not distinguish each other at the distance of a quarter of a mile. Lieutenant Warrington continued in the *Congress* till March, 1813, when he became first of the frigate *United States*, where he remained till his promotion to the rank of Master-commandant, soon after which he took the command of the *Peacock* sloop of war.

While cruising in the *Peacock* in latitude 27, 47, he fell in with the British brig of war *Epervier* with whom he engaged. The result of the action is thus communicated in his official letter to the Secretary of the Navy :

" At sea, April 29th, 1814.

" SIR,

" I have the honour to inform you that we have this morning captured, after an action of forty-two minutes, his Britannic majesty's brig

Epervier, rating and mounting eighteen thirty two pound carronades, with one hundred and twenty-eight men, of whom eleven were killed, and fifteen wounded, according to the best information we could obtain—among the latter is her first Lieutenant, who has lost an arm, and received a severe splinter-wound in the hip. Not a man in the Peacock was killed, and only two wounded, neither dangerously. The fate of the Epervier would have been decided in much less time, but for the circumstance of our fore-yard having been totally disabled by two round shot in the starboard-quarter from her first broadside, which entirely deprived us of the use of our fore-top-sails, and compelled us to keep the ship large throughout the remainder of the action.

“This, with a few topmast and topgallant back-stays cut away, and a few shot through our sails, is the only injury the Peacock has sustained. Not a round shot touched our hull, and our masts and spars are as sound as ever. When the enemy struck, he had five feet water in his hold—his maintopmast was over the side—his mainboom shot away—his foremast cut nearly in two, and tottering—his fore-rigging and stays shot away—his bowsprit badly wounded, and forty-five shot holes in his hull, twenty of which were within a foot of his water-line, above and below. By great exertions we got her in sailing order just as night came on.

“In fifteen minutes after the enemy had struck, the Peacock was ready for another action, in every respect, but the fore-yard, which was sent down, fished, and we had the foresail set again in forty-five minutes—such was the spirit and activity of our gallant crew. The Epervier had under convoy an English hermaphrodite brig, a

Russian, and a Spanish ship, which all hauled their wind and stood to the E. N. E. I had determined upon pursuing the former, but found that it would not be prudent to leave our prize in her then crippled state, and the more particularly so, as we found she had on board one hundred and twenty thousand dollars in specie, which we soon transferred to his ship. Every officer, seaman, and marine did his duty, which is the highest compliment I can pay them.

I am, &c.

L. WARRINGTON."

Captain Warrington brought his prize safe into port, and on his return received the usual honours, which it had become customary to pay to men who conquered the enemy.

Early in the following year he sailed from New-York in company with the *Hornet*, Captain Bidle, as part of a squadron under Commodore Decatur in the *President*, which was intended to cruise in the Indian seas. The *President* had sailed shortly before, after appointing a rendezvous, and soon after was fallen in with by a British squadron, to which he was finally obliged to surrender, after having beaten the *Endymion*, their headmost ship. The *Peacock* and *Hornet* separated in chasing, and did not meet until they arrived at Tristan D'Acunba, the appointed rendezvous. From thence they proceeded to their ultimate destination, but were again separated in consequence of falling in with a British line of battle ship, and never afterwards joined. The *Hornet* was obliged to throw over her guns to escape from the enemy, which rendered it necessary to return to port; but the *Peacock* gained the straits of Sunda, where she captured four vessels, one of them a brig of fourteen guns, in the East-

India's Company's service. From this vessel Captain Warrington received satisfactory assurances of the ratification of peace between the United States and England, and in consequence made the best of his way to this country, where he arrived the beginning of November, 1814, after an absence of almost a year. The Peacock was the first ship of war belonging to the United States that ever cruised in the straits of Sunda, in no part of which there is a friendly port, where she could calculate on receiving any supplies whatever. Since Captain Warrington took command of that ship she has captured nineteen vessels, three of which were given up to prisoners, and sixteen destroyed.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

GEORGE CROGHAN

WAS born at Locust Grove, near the falls of Ohio, on the 15th of November, 1791. His father Major William Croghan, left Ireland at an early period, was appointed an officer in our Revolutionary Army, and discharged his duties as such, to the satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief. His mother is the daughter of John Clark, Esq. of Virginia, a gentleman of worth and respectability, who exerted himself greatly and contributed largely towards the support of the Revolutionary contest. He had five sons; four of whom were officers in the Revolutionary army. General William Clark, who, together with Captain Lewis, explored, and is at present the Governor of Louisiana, was too young to participate

with his brothers in the achievement of that event. The military talents of George R. Clark, have obtained for him the flattering appellation of "the father of the western country."

Colonel Croghan has always been esteemed generous and humane; and, when a boy, his manly appearance and independence of sentiment and action, commanded the attention and admiration of all who knew him.

While in the state of Kentucky, his time was principally occupied by the study of his native tongue—geography—the elements of geometry—and the Latin and the Greek languages. In these different branches of literature he made a respectable progress.

In the year 1808, he left Locust Grove, for the purpose of prosecuting his studies in the University of William and Mary. In this institution he graduated as A. B. on the 4th of July, 1810; and delivered on the day of his graduation, an oration on the subject of expatriation. This oration was deemed by the audience, concise, ingenious, and argumentative, and was pronounced in a manner which did great credit to his oratorical powers. The ensuing summer he attended a course of lectures on law, and upon the termination of the course, returned to his father's, where he prosecuted the study of the same profession, and occasionally indulged himself in miscellaneous reading. Biography and history have always occupied much of his attention. He is (as his countenance indicates rather) of a serious cast of mind; but no one admires more a pleasant anecdote, or an unaffected sally of wit. With his friends he is affable and free from reserve—his manners are prepossessing; he dislikes ostentation, and was never heard to utter a word in praise of himself.

Wm. Croghan 1810-1811

In the autumn of 1811, was fought the battle of Tippecanoe. This was the first opportunity that offered for the display of his military talents. He embraced it with avidity—he left his father's house in the character of a volunteer, and was appointed Aid to General Harrison. On the 7th of November, an attack was made on the troops under the command of that officer; the enemy were repulsed with valour; and during the engagement young Croghan evinced the greatest courage, activity and military skill. His services were acknowledged by all; and he exhibited such proofs of a genius for war, that many of his companions in arms remarked, that “he was born a soldier.” A cant saying among the troops of Tippecanoe, was “to do a main business,” and during the battle, he would ride from post to post, exciting the courage of the men by exclaiming, “Now my brave fellows, now is the time to do a main business.” Upon the return of the troops from Tippecanoe, they were frequently met by persons coming to ascertain the fate of their children or friends. Among the number of these were a very poor and aged man, whose son was slain in the battle. Croghan having ascertained the situation of the old man and observing his inability to perform much bodily labour, regularly made his fires for him every morning, and supplied him with provisions, clothes and money. Many acts of this kind are related of him by the soldiers and officers of Tippecanoe.

After the battle of Tippecanoe, and upon the prospect of a speedy declaration of war against Great Britain, he expressed a desire to join the army. Recommendatory letters of the most flattering kind were written by Generals Harrison and Boyd to the Secretary of war, and upon the

commencement of hostilities, he was appointed Captain in the 17th regiment of infantry. He was stationed some time at Clark cantonment, near the falls of Ohio ; but had not been long in command there, before he was ordered to march, with what regulars he had, to the head-quarters of the North-western army, then at Detroit. Before they had proceeded far they heard of Hull's surrender. Shortly after this, to the Americans, fatal event, Governor Harrison, who had received a Major-General's commission in the regular army, was appointed to command the United States' forces on the North-western frontier.

Captain Croghan commanded a short time, Fort Defiance, on the Miami of the Lakes ; but after the defeat of General Winchester, he was ordered to Fort Meigs, upon which the enemy designed an attack. Here General Harrison commanded in person. Every disposition both for attack and defence, was made by the conflicting parties. The siege began on the 28th of April, and on the 9th of May following, the besiegers commenced their retreat, covered with disgrace. Here Croghan particularly signalized himself with his corps, by several handsome and brilliant charges on the enemy. For his conduct on this occasion, he received the particular notice of the Commanding General ; and was shortly after advanced to a majority, and was stationed with his battalion at Upper Sandusky. From this he was ordered to Fort Stephenson, twenty miles above the mouth of Sandusky river, with orders from General Harrison to destroy the stores and abandon the fort, if the enemy made his appearance. Learning that the enemy designed to attack him, he disobeyed his orders, and immortalized his fame. He laboured day and night to place the fort in a state of defence.

The necessity of cutting a ditch round the fort, immediately presented itself to him.—This was done—but in order to render the enemy's plans abortive, should they even succeed in leaping the ditch, which was nine feet wide, and six deep, he had *large logs* placed on the top of the fort, and so adjusted that an inconsiderable weight would cause them to fall from their position, and crush to death all who might be situated below.

A short time before the action he wrote the following concise and impressive letter to a friend. "The enemy are not far distant: I expect an attack—I will defend this post to the last extremity. I have just sent away the women and children that I may be able to act without incumbrance. Be satisfied: I hope to do my duty. The example set me by my revolutionary kindred is before me—let me die rather than prove unworthy of their name."

On the first of August, General Proctor made his appearance before the fort. His troops consisted of 500 regulars and about 700 Indians of the most ferocious kind. There were but 133 effective men in the garrison, and the works covered one acre of ground. The pickets were about ten feet high, surrounded by a ditch with a block-house at each angle of the fort, one of which contained a six-pounder. This was the exact state of the post at the time the enemy appeared. The first movement made by the enemy, was to make such a disposition of his forces, as to prevent the escape of the garrison, if they should be disposed to attempt it. He then sent Colonel Elliot with a flag, to demand the surrender of the fort. He was met by Ensign Shipp. The British officer observed that General Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of regular

troops, and so many Indians, whom it was impossible to controul, that if the fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred. Shipp answered, that it was the determination of Major Croghan, his officers, and men, to defend the garrison or be buried in it, and that they might do their best. Colonel Elliot addressed Mr. Shipp again—"You are a fine young man, I pity your situation, for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter which must follow resistance." Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Major Croghan, observing what passed, called to Shipp to come into the fort, which was instantly obeyed, and the action commenced. The firing began from the gun-boats in the rear, and was kept up during the night.

At an early hour the next morning, three six pounders, which had been planted during the night, within two hundred and fifty yards of the pickets, began to play upon the fort, but with little effect. About four, P. M. all the enemy's guns were concentrated against the North-western angle of the fort, for the purpose of making a breach. To counteract the effect of their fire, Major Croghan caused that point to be strengthened by means of bags of flour, sand, and other materials, in such a manner that the picketing sustained little or no injury. But the enemy, supposing that their fire had sufficiently shattered the pickets, advanced, to the number of five hundred, to storm the place, at the same time making two feints on different points.

The column which advanced against the North-western angle, was so completely enveloped in smoke, as not to be discovered until it had ap-

proached within eighteen or twenty paces of the lines, but the men being all at their posts, and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and gallant a fire as to throw the column into confusion ; but being quickly rallied, Lieutenant-colonel Short, the leader of the column exclaimed, " come on my brave fellows, we will give these d—d yankee rascals no quarters," and immediately leapt into the ditch, followed by his troops ; as soon as the ditch was entirely filled by the assailants, Major Croghan ordered the six-pounder, which had been masked in the block-house, to be fired. It had been loaded with a double charge of musket balls and slugs. This piece completely raked the ditch from end to end. The first fire levelled the one half in death ; the second or third either killed or wounded every one except eleven, who were covered by the dead bodies. At the same time, the fire of small arms was so incessant and destructive, that it was in vain the British officers exerted themselves to lead on the balance of the column ; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot, and sought safety in an adjoining wood. The loss of the enemy in killed was about one hundred and fifty, besides a considerable number of their *allies*. The Americans had but one killed and seven slightly wounded. Early in the morning of the third, the enemy retreated down the river, after having abandoned considerable baggage.

The garrison was composed of regulars, all Kentuckians, a finer company of men was not to be found in the United States, perhaps not in the world. They were as humane as courageous. This is proved by their unceasing attention to the wounded enemy after their discomfiture ; during the night they kindly received into the fort,

through the fatal port-hole of the block-house, all those who were able to crawl to it; to those unable to move, they threw canteens filled with water. They even parted with their clothes to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded.

Notwithstanding his disobedience of orders, for the successful defence of this post, Major Croghan was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel.

In the beginning of July, an expedition for the recapturing of Michilimackinac, was intrusted to his command. This was fitted out from Detroit.

On the 20th of July, the troops were landed at St. Joseph's; and the fort, which had been evacuated, set on fire. Major Holmes was then ordered to the Sault St. Mary's, for the purpose of breaking up the enemy's establishment at that place. He arrived the day after; but the Northwest agent had received notice of his approach, and succeeded in escaping with a considerable amount of goods, after setting fire to a vessel above the falls: the design of this latter measure was frustrated. The vessel was brought down the falls on the 25th, but having bilged, was destroyed. Considerable property belonging to the enemy was taken.

On the 4th of August, a landing of the troops under Croghan and Morgan was effected, at Mackinac; but the strength of the enemy's works rendered it impossible to carry the place by storm, with a small number of troops; and, after a severe conflict, a retreat became indispensable, and was accordingly effected.

Although this expedition proved unsuccessful in its issue, its failure was not ascribable to any misconduct on the part of the commanding officer. Every thing was done that vigilance, bravery, and perseverance could achieve.

The American loss was thirteen killed, fifty-one wounded, and two missing—loss of the enemy not known.

After this affair, Colonel Croghan determined to remain on Lake Huron for a time, with three companies, for the purpose of breaking up any depots which the enemy might have on the east side of the lake.

He learnt that the only line of communication from York to Mackinac, &c. was by the way of lake Simcoe and Nautawasaga river, which empties into Lake Huron about one hundred miles s. e. of Cabot's Head.

On the 13th of August, the fleet anchored off the mouth of that river, and the troops were quickly disembarked on the peninsula formed between the river and lake, for the purpose of fixing a camp.

On reconnoitring the position thus taken, it was discovered that the enemy's schooner *Nancy* was drawn up in the river a few hundred yards above, under cover of a block-house, erected on a commanding situation on the opposite shore.

On the following morning, a fire for a few minutes was kept up by the shipping upon the block-house, but with little effect—At twelve o'clock, two howitzers being placed within a few hundred yards, commenced a fire, which lasted but a few minutes, when the block-house blew up; at the same time, fire was communicated to the *Nancy*, (by the bursting of one of our shells,) which was so quickly enveloped in flames as to render any attempts which might have been made to save her, unavailing, giving the enemy barely time to make his escape, before an explosion took place,

The loss of the *Nancy* was severely felt by the enemy; her cargo consisting (at the time of her

being on fire) of several hundred barrels of provisions, intended as a six months' supply for the garrison at Mackinac.

Colonel Croghan afterwards returned to Detroit.

Colonel Croghan continued in active service during the remainder of the war, and some time after the reduction of the army he resigned his commission. In May, 1817, he was married to a daughter of John R. Livingston, Esq. at New-York, in which city he has since resided.

COMMODORE

THOMAS MACDONOUGH

Is a native of the state of Delaware. Of his early years nothing has been said. At the siege of Tripoli, he held a midshipman's warrant, and served under Commodore Decatur, whose favourable report to Commodore Preble, of his good conduct, as one of the heroic volunteers by whom the frigate Philadelphia and Turkish gun-boats were destroyed, induced that officer to promote him. From that period to his appearance on Lake Champlain, nothing in the life of Macdonough is known.

It had become an object of solicitude with the belligerent parties on the Northern frontier, to obtain the superiority on the lakes. Indeed, the success of the land operations was considered to be entirely dependent on that of the marine. Commodore Perry had already established our dominion on Lake Erie : and that of Lake Ontario, had been successfully disputed by Commodore

Chauncey, with Sir James Yeo. The States of Vermont and New-York were threatened from Lake Champlain. To counteract hostile attempts from this quarter, the command of the American squadron on this lake, was entrusted to Commodore Macdonough ; while the defence of Plattsburgh depended upon the exertions of General Macomb and his gallant little army : In September, 1814, an attack was anticipated upon these youthful commanders. Accordingly, on the 11th of that month, the expected event took place.

For several days, the enemy had been on his way to Plattsburgh, by land and water, and it was well understood, that an attack would be made at the same time, by his land and naval forces. Commodore Macdonough determined to await at anchor, the approach of the latter.

At eight o'clock in the morning, the look-out boat announced the approach of the enemy. At nine, he anchored in a line ahead, at about three hundred yards distance from the American line : his flag-ship, the *Confiance*, under Commodore Downie, was opposed to Commodore Macdonough's ship, the *Saratoga* ; the brig *Linnet* was opposed to the *Eagle*, Captain Robert Henley ; the enemy's gallies, thirteen in number, to the schooner, sloop and a division of gallies, one of his sloops assisting his ship and brig ; the others assisting his gallies : the remaining American gallies being with the *Saratoga* and *Eagle*.

In this situation, the whole force on both sides become engaged ; the *Saratoga* suffering much from the heavy fire of the *Confiance*, though the fire of the former was very destructive to her antagonist. The *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-commander Cassin, gallantly sustained her full share of the action. At half past ten o'clock, the *Eagle*

not being able to bring her guns to bear, cut her cable and anchored in a more eligible position, between the Saratoga and the Ticonderoga, where she very much annoyed the enemy, but unfortunately left her Commodore exposed to a galling fire from the enemy's brig. The guns of the Saratoga on the starboard side, being nearly all dismounted or not manageable, a stern anchor was let go, the bower cable cut, and the ship wind- ed with a fresh broadside on the Confiance, which soon after surrendered. The broadside of the Saratoga was then sprung to bear on the brig, which surrendered in about fifteen minutes after.

The sloop that was opposed to the Eagle, had struck some time before, and drifted down the line; the sloop which was with the enemy's gallies, having struck also. Three of them were sunk, and the others pulled off. While Macdonough's gallies were in the act of obeying the signal to follow them, all the vessels were reported to him to be in a sinking state; it then became necessary to countermand the signal to the gallies, and order their men to the pumps.

At this time there was not a mast standing in either squadron, in a condition to hold up a sail; the lower rigging being nearly all shot away hung down along the masts.

The action lasted without intermission two hours and twenty minutes. The Confiance had one hundred and five round shot in her hull. Her shot passing principally over the heads of her antagonists, the hull of the Saratoga received but fifty-five shot, and there were not at the close of the action, twenty whole hammocks in the nettings. The Confiance had one hundred and ninety men killed; and one of the captured sloops, the Chub, had but five men alive. The British

Commodore Downie was killed at the first broadside. Commodore Macdonough was three times knocked down, by the splinters and falling spars and blocks, but escaped with trifling injury. The Saratoga was twice set on fire by hot shot from the enemy's ship.

The following is a statement of the killed and wounded on board the American squadron, and of the force engaged on each side; taken from Commodore Macdonough's letter to the Secretary of the Navy, dated, "United States' ship Saratoga, at anchor off Plattsburgh, September 13th, 1814," accompanying the flags taken from the enemy.

American Force.

Saratoga, eight long 24 pounders :—six 42 pound carronades ;—twelve 32 pound do.—total 26.

Eagle, twelve 32 pound carronades, and eight long 18 pounders :—total 20.

Ticonderoga, eight long 12 pounders ;—four long 18 do. ;—five 32 pound carronades :—total 17.

Preble, seven long 9 pounders :—total 7.

Ten gallies, viz :—Allen, Burrows, Borer, Nettle, Viper, and Centipede, one long 24 pounder, and one 18 pounder, Columbiad, each ;—and Ludlow, Wilmer, Aylwin, and Ballard, of one long 12 pounder, each.—Grand total 86 guns.

RECAPITULATION.—14 long 25 pounders,
 6 42 pound carronades,
 29 32 pound do.
 12 long 18 pounders,
 12 12 do.
 7 9
 6 18 pound columbiads.

Total, 86 guns.

Enemy's Force.

Frigate *Confiance*, twenty-seven long 24 pounders ;—four 32 pound carronades ;—six 24 pound do. and two long 18 pounders, on birth deck :—total 39.

Brig *Linnet*, sixteen long 12 pounders :—total 16.

Sloop *Chub*, ten 18 pound carronades ;—one long six pounder :—total 11.

Sloop *Finch*, six 18 pound carronades :—one 18 pound Columbiad, and four long 6 pounders :—total 11.

Thirteen gallies, viz :—Sir James Yeo, one long 24 pounder, and one 32 pound carronade :—total 2.

Sir George Prevost, one long 24 pounder, and one 38 pound carronade :—total 2.

Sir Sy Beckwith, one long 24 pounder, and one 32 pound carronade :—total 2.

Broke, one long 18 pounder, and one 32 pound carronade ;—total 2.

Murray, one long 18 pounder, and one 18 pound carronade :—total 2.

Wellington, one long 18 pounder :—total 1.

Tecumseh, one long 18 do.—total 1.

Name unknown, one long 18 do.—total 1.

Drummond, one 32 pound carronade :—total 1.

Simcoe, one 32 do. do.—total 1.

Name unknown, one 32 do. do.

Do. do. one 32 do. do.—total 1.

Do. do. one 32 do. do. total 1.

Total, guns 95.

RECAPITULATION.—thirty long 24 pounders.

seven	18	do.
sixteen	12	do.
five	6	do.
thirteen	32	pound carron.
six	24	do. do.
seventeen	18	do. do.
one	18	do. Columb.

—
Total, 95 guns.

An attack made by the British army, under the Governor-general of the Canadas, Sir George Prevost, upon General Macomb, commanding at Plattsburgh, owed its defeat to the bravery of Commodore Macdonough on the lake, and the undaunted valour of Macomb commanding ashore.

Sir George having collected all the disposable force in Lower Canada, with a view of conquering the country as far as Crown Point and Ticonderoga, entered the territories of the United States, on the first of September, with fourteen thousand men, and occupied the Village of Champlain. As were before intimated, the co-operation of the naval force constituted an essential part of the arrangement. The consequence was, that instantly upon the discomfiture of the fleet, the army retired with great precipitation, having lost two thousand five hundred men, in killed, wounded and missing.

Thus, by the valour and conduct of two young Commanders, joined to the exertion of the forces under their command, the enemy was expelled from Lake Champlain and its vicinity ; his cherished enterprise miscarried, and the prospect of future success was rendered more distant and hopeless than ever.

This victory was announced to the department of war, by Commodore Macdonough, on the day it was obtained, in the following brief and modest communication: "The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain, in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy."

At the time of this brilliant achievement, Macdonough was in the twenty-eighth year of his age.

From this scene, at the return of peace he was transferred to the Atlantic, and has since paid another visit to his old Barbary friends.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL

WILLIAM CARROLL

WAS born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, about the year 1789, and was educated and brought up to mercantile pursuits. Of his early years, nothing is known which gives pre-eminence. He removed to the state of Tennessee, in the year 1810, and settled at Nashville, his present place of residence. When the political horizon was thickening and portended a tempest, he became a member and was elected Captain of the "*Nashville Uniform Volunteers*," which company tendered their services to the Government of the United States, a short time prior to the hostile attitude assumed by their country, in June, 1812, to retaliate for the unjust and infamous aggressions of Great Britain, on the rights of the United States as a free and independent nation. This tender was promptly accepted by the National Executive, and from this period, the military ca-

reer is Carroll is dated. Suffice it to say, that the officers and men of that corps emulated each other in bringing their discipline to the highest state of perfection in their power. Captain Carroll in particular devoted much of his time to improve his knowledge of the military art.

Shortly after the government of the United States had made known to the world their determination to resist the aggressions of Great Britain on their National Independence, by an appeal to arms, a body of volunteers from Tennessee, commanded by General Andrew Jackson, was ordered by the general government, to descend the Mississippi for the defence of the lower country, where invasion was at that time apprehended. On this occasion, Captain Carroll was appointed Brigade Inspector of the whole command, by the hero of New Orleans. During this expedition, officers and men, by their perseverance, patience, and correct discipline, drew from the late General Covington, at their discharge from Natchez, his marked approbation.

The hostile demeanour of the Creek Indians impelled the government of the United States to direct an irruption of military force into the Creek countries, in the autumn of 1813. General Andrew Jackson, with his Tennessee Volunteers, was ordered again to take the field. At this time, Carroll who had been advanced to a majority in the militia of Tennessee, was at Pittsburgh on business. The moment he was made acquainted with this news, he started for General Jackson's head-quarters, considering himself attached to the forces then on the hostile expedition. He reached head-quarters just as the army was entering the Indian territory, and General Jackson announced him the next morning, in a general order, as In-

spector-General of that army, ordering that he should be obeyed accordingly.

A short time only elapsed before the Tennesseans had an opportunity to test their prowess in battle. In the first general engagement which General Jackson brought on with the Indians, Colonel Carroll solicited and obtained the command of the van, two hundred strong, and was ordered to attack the enemy, feign a retreat, and thus draw them into open action. His van found them sheltered by a morass. They were attacked and driven from their strong position. As was wished for, this attack drew on a general action, and the Indians were totally routed, with the loss of three hundred killed. To Carroll, the post of honour was that of danger.—He rode in front of his troops in the hottest of the action, urging them on to victory or death. He was frequently solicited to retire to a greater place of security, for the sake of the troops whom he commanded, and he as frequently refused. His signal services were particularly recognised by General Jackson, in his official report.

Having effected its objects, this force was disbanded, and a less numerous one, consisting of mounted gun-men, and a single company of artillery penetrated into the heart of the enemy's country. This incursion drew on several very sanguinary conflicts, wherein Colonel Carroll partook of the greatest dangers and evinced his dauntless courage and military skill.

The 22nd of January, 1814, was a day which formed a conspicuous æra in his military career. At dawn of day, General Jackson's forces were assailed by the savage foe, who fought with desperation and supported the attack for near an hour. The onset was made against the right wing

of the Americans, a post to which Carroll hastened, and fought until the enemy were compelled to fly, when he headed the pursuit.

Jackson's forces were honoured on that day with two attacks from the savages. The smallness of his numbers, scarcity of provisions, and the necessary details to wait on his wounded, determined him to fall back on his strong hold, at Fort Strother, upon the Coosee, to await the arrival of a large reinforcement which was hastening to his support. Apprehensive of attack in his retrograde movement, he having made every necessary disposition, committed the command of the rear, which was most exposed to the enemy, to Colonel Carroll. The army had scarcely taken up its line of march, on the morning of the 24th, and cleared the fortifications, when the rear of the right and left columns, and rear guard were simultaneously attacked by the savages, most furiously. A panic spread throughout his command, and Carroll was left with about 30 men to sustain the conflict. These few exhibited Spartan prowess, until the loss of half their numbers induced their brave commander to fall back on a corps of artillery which bravely stood its ground with musketry. The arrival of a six-pounder, charged with grape-shot, soon compelled the savages to fly for shelter to the adjacent hills. A reinforcement from the advance of the retreating army, enabled Colonel Carroll to pursue the Indians a considerable distance. In this conflict, the loss of the savages was very considerable.

Tehupecau on the river Talapoosee, next witnessed his deeds of bravery. Here in a position impervious both by nature and art to artillery, the Indians posted themselves. Jackson instantly determined to storm their intrenchments. The Ame-

ricans rushed forward under a heavy fire and carried the breastwork ; this was succeeded by an immediate discomfiture of the Indians, who lost, according to General Jackson's calculation, 800 in killed, wounded, and prisoners. A small party of the fleeting foe, sheltered by some brushwood, impenetrable to musketry, continued to keep up a galling fire. Colonel Carroll requested and obtained the command of a small detachment with which he instantly charged the Indians with fixed bayonets, and routed them. In this rencounter, he received a flesh wound, but did not leave the field of contest. The humbled savages sued for peace : the result was an honourable treaty.

In the following October, General Jackson received the appointment of Major-General in the regular army of the United States, which vacated the command of the second division of Tennessee militia. The field officers of that division elected Colonel Carroll their Major-General to supply the vacancy. A few days after, he received orders from the Governor of Tennessee to repair with 3000 men of his division to New-Orleans, to assist in the defence of that important post, which was menaced by the British.

General Carroll rendezvoused his troops at Nashville, on the 14th of November, 1814, after which, they were organized, equipped, and arrived at New-Orleans, their point of destination, in 22 days—a distance of 1300 miles. The enemy had debarked—Coffee had engaged their advanced posts, and General Jackson was busily engaged in fortifying himself in a most advantageous position, a few miles below New-Orleans, at Carroll's arrival. This auxiliary force was greeted with a most hearty welcome. Jackson had his front supported by a ditch and breast-

work ; his right by the river Mississippi, and his left by a deep swamp. The enemy in full view at about a mile distance, had thrown up ample defences. In the intervening plain some sanguinary conflicts took place before the final discomfiture of the British.

On the 28th of December the British advanced some columns with a show of storming the American lines. These were met by General Carroll with his command, who compelled them to retire within their works. In this affair, the loss of the British was very considerable, while that of Carroll's was 12 killed and 20 wounded. On the 1st and 6th of January, 1815; the British made similar attempts on the American lines, with like ill success. On the morning of the 8th, General Pakenham determined to put his strength at final issue. A Lieutenant-General in rank, the brother-in-law of the famous Wellington, with veteran troops inured to service on the Hesperian peninsula, Pakenham was sure of success. In fact so certain was the British government of the issue of this expedition, that in its equipment, it was accompanied by the entire intended civil department of the expected conquered province ; but, alas ! the frailty of all human calculations—the fates had otherwise decreed ; and instead of spreading desolation and distress with his well trained myrmidons, graced with the garlands of victorious infamy, the plumed warrior was destined to bite the dust. The evening preceding the attack, Pakenham, by a deserter, was made acquainted with Carroll's position in the centre of the American line of defences, and advised of the certainty of their giving way at the first attack, determined to make them sustain the heaviest

of the battle. With his best and heaviest column, next morning, he advanced against Carroll's division. Within seventy-five yards of the American lines, he boldly displayed his columns, amidst a very heavy and incessant fire of artillery from the American batteries. The enemy advanced with slow and regular step to the attack. Carroll had given positive orders to his troops to reserve their fire until the near approach of the enemy rendered the work of death certain and inevitable. The enemy reached the ditch—Carroll gave the word "fire," the enemy, strewing the ground with the dead and dying, the living fled in confusion. Thrice their officers rallied and led to the charge with like success. Although the attack was general, the treachery of a deserter, led the brunt of the attack against the Tennesseans. A retreat took place—the proud conquerors of Talavera fled before the raw yeomanry of the American forests and their brethren in arms. The Americans lost about 6 killed and 12 wounded, while the loss of the British in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was 2500, a parallel scarcely to be found in any period of history. Among the killed, was the British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Edward Pakenham, and Major-General Gibbs : Major-General Keane was severely wounded, and a number of field, and platoon officers, and only 400 privates out of the 2500, were made prisoners.

General Morgan in this action, having been driven from his position by the enemy, on the west bank of the Mississippi, General Jackson, who commanded personally in chief on the whole American lines, directed General Carroll to pass the river, take command of Morgan's detachment and dislodge the enemy from their recent con-

quest. In obedience to orders, he passed the river and took command—He harangued the lately discomfited troops who greeted him with applause, while he promised to lead them to death or victory. As they advanced to the attack in regular order, the enemy retreated precipitately from their new position—he replaced them at their former posts, repassed the river and resumed the command of his own division.

The British having been totally defeated before New-Orleans, with unparalleled disparity of loss, retreated to their shipping, and relinquished any farther thoughts of subjugating that section of the United States. Peace was soon after proclaimed—General Carroll, according to orders, marched his men home, and discharged them. On this march he measured his way home with his troops on foot, sharing equal fatigue with the lowest of his soldiers. To his troops he was kind and affectionate, bestowing particular care on the sick, and attentive to the health and welfare of the whole. On his arrival at home, he was greeted with unbounded applause by his fellow citizens. In the short space of his military career, no one marched to the goal of renown with more rapid strides than himself ; and no man in his sphere appeared more deserving. Of a form athletic, sanguine, and zealous in his disposition and undertaking, he seems capable of surmounting the greatest fatigue and hardships. Beloved by his troops, they parted from him with regret, and the calumet of peace now suffers each to repose under his own vine and fig-tree, to enjoy domestic repose under the banners of freedom.

MAJOR-GENERAL

JACOB BROWN.

THE ancestors of General Brown emigrated from England with William Penn, in the first settlement of the colony of Pennsylvania, and for successive generations, have been respectable members of the society of Friends, improperly called *Quakers*. The General was born in Buck's county, Pennsylvania, a few miles below Trenton in New-Jersey. He received a plain country education, taught a country school in his early years, according to report; and acquired a knowledge of surveying, the practice of which art led him to emigrate, at the age of 23, to the state of New-York, where he became acquainted with an agent who had the direction of a large landed concern in the vicinity of the waters of Lake Ontario. With this man he contracted for a tract of several thousand acres of land not far from Sackett's Harbour, and began its settlement in 1799. Here he resided in the laudable pursuits of agricultural improvement, beloved and respected. In 1808 he was elected a member of the New-York Agricultural and Philosophical Society. His acceptance, in 1809, of a colonelcy (the first military office he ever held) in the New-York militia, proclaimed him no longer a member of that religious fraternity to which his family had been for ages attached. In consequence of the rage of *party spirit*, the appointments made by the New-York Council of Appointment, particularly in times of peace, are governed often more by the consideration of political influence of the person to be commissioned, than by his capacity to dis-

charge the duties annexed to the station they design him to fill. Considerations of this nature, no doubt, induced Colonel Brown's promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General, in 1811, as he was not led to this important station by gradation or singular military services. Practices of this kind, while they reflect no dishonour on persons thus appointed, deserve the highest censure, because while the elevation is not derived from conspicuous talents, it tramples on the rights of seniority in commission.

It is thus accounted for, that, at the commencement of hostilities on the part of the United States against Great Britain, an important frontier of the state of New-York was found under the military command of General Jacob Brown. Of the first detachment of New-York militia, called into actual service of the United States, one brigade was committed to his charge. That the subsequent development of General Brown's military character cannot be ascribed to the wisdom and foresight of that body to whom he owed his commission, the preceding observations will amply warrant; hence it is but fair to infer, that his subsequent military career is ascribable alone to his prowess and talents, perhaps not unaided with Executive favour.

The General's first command embraced the whole line of frontier from Oswego to St. Regis, a distance of more than three hundred miles.— Within this line was included the important post of Sackett's Harbour, the security of which, being essential to the success of ulterior operations, constituted the first object of his attention. Having fortified this in the best manner his time and scanty means would allow, he reconnoitered in person the shores of the St. Lawrence, and, pro-

vided as far as practicable, for the defence of the country. His transportation, a short time afterwards, of a party of four hundred men from Sackett's Harbour to Ogdensburgh, manifested firmness of purpose and intrepidity of spirit. The roads were impassible for baggage and artillery, and the enemy was in undisputed possession of the lake and river. On the subject of a passage by water, there existed but one opinion ; an attempt at it was considered as fraught with destruction. The General, however, having been ordered to proceed, was bent on obedience. He, accordingly, embarked with his troops in the best flotilla he could provide for the purpose, and, determined to fight his way through whatever might oppose him, arrived in safety at his place of destination.

While stationed at Ogdensburgh, he so galled and harassed the enemy, in their navigation of the St. Lawrence, that, impatient of further annoyance, they fitted out a formidable expedition for his capture or destruction. The number of men they despatched on this enterprise was upwards of 800, commanded by some of their best officers, and provided with every thing deemed necessary to insure success. The American force opposed to them was less than 400. Notwithstanding this vast numerical difference, General Brown forced the enemy to retreat precipitately, with considerable loss in boats and men, not one of his party having received even a wound. No further attempts were made to dislodge him during the continuance at that post.

His term of service having soon afterwards expired, the General returned to his family at Brownville, and resumed his agricultural pursuits. In the spring of 1813, General Brown again took

the field, and once more was intrusted with the defence of Sackett's Harbour, then menaced by a serious attack from the enemy.

All the regular troops, except about four hundred, who, from their recent arrival on the spot, were but little better than fresh recruits, had been removed from the harbour, to co-operate in the meditated reduction of Fort George. The furniture of the cannon having been carried off to complete the outfit for the same service, the batteries were nearly in a dismantled state: nor could any efficient aid be derived from the co-operation of the fleet, in as much as that, with the exception of two small schooners, was all employed in the expedition up the lake. In fact, considering its exposed situation, and the vital importance of the post, Sackett's Harbour had been, to the astonishment of all military men, left in a most unprotected and perilous condition. To aid in its defence, General Brown embodied, with all practicable promptitude, a few hundred militia from the adjacent district, who had scarcely arrived when the enemy made his appearance. The General's situation was critical in itself, and to the heart of a soldier trying in the extreme. It was his duty to meet the fire, perhaps the bayonets of veterans, with a handful of raw, undisciplined troops, many of them but a few days from the bosom of their families, their domestic feelings still awake—and their habits of civil life perfectly unbroken, none of whom having ever before faced an enemy in the field. But his own activity, valour and skill, aided by the determined bravery of Lieutenant-Colonel Backus, of the regular army, supplied all deficiencies. Arrangements were made to receive the enemy with a warm and galling fire at his place of landing.

and to contest the ground with him in his advance towards the fort.

The regiment of United States' troops were stationed in the rear, while General Brown, at the head of his new levies, occupied in person the first post of danger. On the second fire the militia broke and fled in disorder, but were rallied again by the exertions of their commander. During the remainder of the conflict, which was warm, and continued some time with varying success, the presence of the General was every where felt, applauding the brave, encouraging the timid, and rallying the flying, till his efforts were ultimately crowned with victory. In consequence of the firm front presented by the regulars, and the judicious disposition of a body of militia threatening his rear, the enemy without accomplishing his object, was compelled to relinquish the contest, and retreat in great haste, and in some disorder, to his place of embarkation.

General Brown, returning once more to private life, was offered the command of a regiment in the regular army. This offer, he unhesitatingly declined. The acceptance of it would have placed him below officers whom he might then command, and, as the regiment was yet to be raised, a considerable time must have elapsed before he could possibly have taken the field. In plain terms, he felt himself entitled to a higher rank. Nor was it long till the government appointed him a Brigadier General in the army of the United States.

The first service in which General Brown was engaged under his new appointment, was the superintendence and direction of the arrangements for transporting from Sackett's Harbour, down the St. Lawrence, the army commanded by General Wilkinson, in the autumn of the year 1813, in

the abortive expedition for the reduction of Montreal. For the completion of these arrangements from the time of their commencement, only three weeks were allowed.

In the expedition down the St. Lawrence, and during the course of the winter that succeeded, the duties and services in which General Brown was engaged were of the utmost importance to the operations and well-being of the army, and in all of them he acquitted himself with distinguished reputation.

In the winter of 1813—4, the enemy having gained possession of Fort Niagara, and being in considerable force on the opposite shore, a determination was formed to remove once more the seat of war to that frontier. Perceiving that the conflict would be arduous and sanguinary, and that the master spirits of the army alone could encounter it, with any reasonable prospect of success, the Executive appointed General Brown to lead the expedition.*

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* General Armstrong was Secretary of War—possessed of the science and the spirit of the modern art of war, his mind was occupied more in the application of the enlarged plan of a system where large armies move than on the particular modes adapted to small armies and regions so extensive and unsettled: he possessed the ambition of great enterprise, but his mind appeared to confound the most opposite circumstances, and to suppose that the same principles would apply to every place and every kind of character; the want of judgment, which may be traced perhaps to an undervaluation of men in general, was most conspicuous in his unfortunate choice of men unfit to execute his designs, or his rejection of those who are most fit, or his desire to execute every thing himself.

The preceding campaign being darkened by disasters, General Brown and his officers were fully sensible of the deep stake which both themselves and their country held on the issue of the present.

The movements of the army were conducted with celerity, silence, and vigour. General Brown had advanced on his march almost to Buffalo, before it was generally known that he had left his encampment at Sackett's Harbour.

The first achievement of General Brown, on entering the enemy's territory, was the reduction

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The greatest disasters arose out of these unfortunate circumstances. He had meditated a bold and important design—it was to attack Kingston in Canada; but his mode of operation was circuitous—his means disproportionate—he was wholly unprovided with means of subsistence to support a successful enterprise—and unfortunate in the choice of a chief to conduct it. Perhaps history offers no example of a series of blunders so preposterous and ludicrous, and yet so unfortunate as to their issue and the blood-shed which followed without any other effect.

With a view to the attack on Kingston, he determined that the officer who was to command should not be himself apprized of the service until at the moment when he was ordered to execute it. For this purpose he issued an order to Brigadier General Jacob Brown, then commanding at Sackett's Harbour, for an attack on Kingston with the force under his command, and coterminously a large body of New-York militia were ordered to join him; to act as a reinforcement and to occupy the positions evacuated by the army carried into Canada.

Enclosed in this letter officially addressed to the General, there was another; this letter was in the hand-writing of the war-minister, and in terms ordered the General with all his force, excepting only a

of Fort Erie, the garrison of which surrendered with but little resistance. He then declared martial law, and made known his views in a proclamation.

No sooner had the General made the necessary arrangements in relation to the occupancy and security of Fort Erie, than he marched to attack the enemy, who lay intrenched in his works at Chippewa.

On the morning of the 4th July, General Scott, with his brigade, and a corps of artillery, advanced. After some skirmishing with the enemy,

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small guard, to move upon Niagara by forced marches : that the voice of the country exclaimed against its possession by the enemy ; and directed it to be taken at all hazards. He was advised that when he should reach the valley of Onondaga, about midway between Sackett's Harbour and Niagara, that he would here be joined by Colonel Gaines and a numerous additional force, and artillery and stores.

The General on perusing the order to go against Kingston and the enclosure directing his march upon Niagara, appears to have overlooked the use that was *hinted* rather than ordered to be made use of. The enclosure was in fact intended to be used as a deception on the enemy, and General Brown was expected to contrive some means by which this letter should be intercepted by the enemy ; who would thereby be induced to withdraw their forces from Kingston to reinforce Niagara and Fort George ; and thus prepare the way for the success of the masked design upon Kingston. Instead of obeying the orders which were regularly issued from the war department, General Brown not conceiving the drift of the letter of General Armstrong, which was to have fallen intentionally into the hands of the enemy, determined to act upon it, regardless of the other. He consequently marched his troops to attack Nia-

he selected a judicious position for the night ; his right resting on the river, and a ravine in front ; at eleven at night, General Brown joined him with the reserve under General Ripley, and a corps of artillery, under Major Hindman—a field and battering train were also brought up ; General Porter arrived in the morning, with a part of the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, and some of the warriors of the Six Nations.

Early in the morning of the 5th, the enemy attacked the pickets ; by noon he showed himself on the left of the army, and attacked one of the

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gara and Fort George. When he reached Onondaga Hollow he found no troops there as the letter had promised. He was surprised and knew not what to do. Meeting, however, with Colonel Gaines shortly after by mere accident, he informed Gaines of his situation and disappointment. General Brown exhibited his orders and letter to Gaines who immediately perceiving the intentions of Armstrong, informed him that he ought to have acted upon his orders to have contrived to have let the letter fall into the hands of the enemy. Upon this a despatch was sent on immediately to General Armstrong apprizing him of the blunder.

The minister of war, to save the character of a *favourite* officer of the Cabinet, directed an immediate change of operations instead of what he had intended, and ordered that the pretended attack on Niagara and Fort George, instead of serving only as a *russe-de-guerre*, should become the basis of military operations for that campaign. To this blunder of a General and the complacency of a war-minister to screen his favourite, is ascribed the useless devastation and carnage which took place on the Niagara frontier, during that summer and autumn ; an event which will long be remembered by the inhabitants of its vicinity.

pickets, as it was returning to camp. Captain Treat, who commanded the picket, retired, leaving a wounded man on the ground. Captain Biddle, of the artillery, promptly assumed the command of this picket, led it back to the wounded man, and brought him off the field.

General Brown very improperly ordered Captain Treat to retire from the army, and directed that his name, and that of another officer, should be stricken from the roll of the army.

Captain Treat demanded a Court of Inquiry ; it was not granted ; but a Court-Martial was ordered at Fort Erie. The left division of the army marched to Sackett's Harbour soon after, and the Court was dissolved.

Captain Treat immediately proceeded to Sackett's Harbour, by permission from Major-General Izard, and requested another Court-Martial. Major-General Brown, on the 5th of April, 1815, after the repeated solicitations of Captain Treat, issued an order, organizing a Court, consisting of Colonel M'Feely, President ; Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, Major Croker, Major Boyle, Major Mul-lany, Major Chane, Captain White, members ; Captain Seymour, supernumerary ; Lieut. Anderson, 13th regiment, Judge Advocate.

The court met, and proceeded on the trial the 6th April, 1815, at Sackett's Harbour. They closed the investigation on the 8th May, when Captain Treat was honourably acquitted.

The sentence of the Court was approved by Major-General Brown, and promulgated on the 28th June, at Sackett's Harbour.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, General Porter advanced with the volunteers and Indians, in order to induce the enemy to come forth. General Porter's command met the light parties of the

enemy in the woods. The enemy was driven, and Porter pursued until near Chippewa, where he met their whole column, in order of battle. The heavy firing induced a belief that the entire force of the enemy was in motion, and prepared for action. General Scott was ordered to advance with his brigade, and Towson's artillery. The General advanced in the most prompt and officer-like manner, and, in a few minutes, was in close action with a superior force of the enemy. By this time, General Porter's command had given way, and fled in disorder, notwithstanding the great exertions of the General to rally them. This retreat greatly exposed the left flank of General Scott's brigade. Captain Harris was directed, with his dragoons, to stop the fugitives, behind the ravine, fronting the American camp. General Ripley, with the 21st regiment, which formed part of the reserve, passed to the left of the camp, under cover of the wood, to relieve General Scott, by falling on the enemy's right flank, but, before the 21st could come into its position, the line commanded by General Scott, closed with the enemy. Major Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and flank, and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to "*support arms, and advance ;*" the order was promptly obeyed, amidst the most deadly and destructive fire. Having gained a better position, he poured on the enemy a fire so galling, as caused him to retire. The enemy's entire line now fell back, and continued to retreat, until at the sloping ground, descending toward Chippewa, when they broke, and fled to their works.

General Brown, finding the pursuit of the troops checked by the batteries of the enemy, ordered

up his ordnance, in order to force the place, by a direct attack, but was induced, by the report of Major Wood, and Captain Austin, who reconnoitered the enemy's works, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of his officers, to order the forces to retire to camp. The American troops, on no occasion, behaved with more gallantry than on the present. The British regulars suffered defeat from a number of men, principally volunteers and militia, inferior to the vanquished enemy, in every thing but courage; and the gallant Brown, a woodsman, "a soldier of yesterday," put at defiance the military tactics of the experienced Major-General Riall.

On the 25th of July, General Brown's army was encamped above Chippewa, near the battle ground of the 5th. The brigade under General Scott moved past Chippewa, and halted at Bridge-water, in view of Niagara falls. At half past 4, P. M. the battle was commenced by the enemy. The enemy, being numerically superior to the Americans, he was able to extend his line so as to attempt to flank. In order to counteract the apparent view of General Riall, he was *fought in detachments—he was charged in column*. The ground was obstinately contested until 9 o'clock in the evening, when General Brown decided to storm a battery, which the enemy had on a commanding eminence. Colonel Miller commanded on this enterprise, which was so resolutely entered on, that the enemy, unable to withstand the charge, retired to the bottom of the hill, and abandoned his cannon. The enemy now gave way, and was pursued some distance. The American army then betook itself to the securing of prisoners, and bringing off the wounded.

While the army was thus employed, General Drummond arrived with a reinforcement to the enemy, when he, unexpectedly to the Americans, renewed the battle, with a view to recover his cannon. The army, having quickly formed, resisted the attack with courage, and, after a close engagement, the enemy was repulsed, as he was in two other similar attempts. The American army having effected the removal of nearly all the wounded, retired from the ground a little before midnight, and returned to camp.

On the morning after the battle, the Americans, under General Ripley and Porter, reconnoitered the enemy, who did not show any disposition to renew the contest, and then burned the enemy's barracks and a bridge at Chippewa, after which, they returned to Fort Erie.

The enemy was believed to have lost between 1200 and 1300 men, including Major-General Riall, who was wounded, and, with 18 other officers and 150 non-commissioned officers and privates taken prisoners. The Americans lost—killed, 171; wounded, 672; missing, 117—total 860.

The British force engaged, amounted by their own confession, to 4500 men, mostly or wholly regulars, beside a host of Indians; the American force did not exceed 2800 men, consisting in a great proportion of the militia of Pennsylvania, and New-York.

General Brown received two wounds, but continued to command until the action ended. The General was obliged, by the severity of his wounds, to retire from the command, which devolved on General Ripley.

In the space of a few weeks, he was again at the head of his army, within the walls of Fort Erie. In the interim the troops in that fortress

had been much harassed and pressed by the enemy, now become superior in a still higher degree by reinforcements, and exasperated to madness by their late defeats. An assault of the works had been attempted, but was gallantly repelled by the American forces then under the command of General Gaines. Not long afterwards, that officer received a serious wound from the bursting of a shell, which obliged him to retire, for a time, from service.

Menaced in front by a powerful enemy, and having a river of difficult passage in their rear, the troops in Fort Erie began to be considered in a very perilous situation ; but while General Drummond was engaged in formidable arrangements intended for the destruction of the American forces, General Brown was still more actively employed in devising means for their safety and glory.

By the middle of September, the enemy had nearly completed a line of batteries to command the fort, which, when in full operation, would have rendered the position of the Americans at least unsafe, if not untenable. On the 17th of September, the day before the fire from the battery was to commence, General Brown made a sortie, not in the form of a "night attack," of which a distinguished British officer had so bitterly complained, but in the face of day, drove the enemy from his strong hold with the loss of more than eight hundred men, spiked his cannon, and destroyed his works.

Shortly after the destruction of his works, General Drummond retreated from before Fort Erie, and fell back on Fort George, leaving the American army in security and repose. The conflict in that quarter being now apparently at

an end, General Brown was transferred from the Niagara frontier to the command of Sackett's Harbour.

After the war was ended, and the army reduced to a peace establishment, General Brown was retained in service, and was intrusted with the command of the Northern Military District.

In some of the movements of his army on the Canada frontier, General Brown has been accused of betraying an ignorance of military affairs, ill-suited to his station, and an obstinacy of disposition which only yielded to those whom he conceived to be armed with executive favour and superior knowledge.

The treatment of General Brown to Captain Treat subjected him to a great deal of censure. His correspondence with Commodore Chauncey, and his conduct in regard to General Ripley, did not contribute much to raise him in the esteem of those gentlemen. In fine, his career has been brilliant, chequered with bravery, a little fault, some vanity, and much good conduct. That his errors were so few, is matter of applause to him, when his *rocket* elevation to command, without a previous knowledge of the elementary principles of military science is considered; and what is more astonishing, is, that an experienced adversary should outweigh him in the commission of error. The General is certainly an exception to the rule which requires regular military education to complete the Commander. Had he lived under some of the monarchs of Europe, he would very probably have to select between a return to his farm, and a lieutenancy of regulars. It belongs to republics to develop and reward personal merit. When the *people* become party in a war, eve-



Whelan p.

London p.

MAJ^R GEN^L ANDREW JACKSON.

ty citizen is esteemed according to his intrinsic value: under absolute governments the people are emphatically but a swinish multitude.

MAJOR-GENERAL

ANDREW JACKSON.

THIS gentleman is of Irish ancestry. His grandfather partook of the fatigues and dangers of the army of King William, at the siege of Carrickfergus, an eventful period in English and Irish history. His youngest son Andrew, with his wife and their two sons emigrated to South Carolina, in the year 1765, and purchased a farm forty-five miles from Cambden, in the then Waxsaw settlement, where Major-General Andrew Jackson was born on the 15th of March, 1767. In early infancy he lost his father, in consequence of which his elder brothers received merely a common school education, because of the small patrimony: the youngest, Andrew, was placed at an academy at the Waxsaw meeting-house, under the care of a Mr. Humphries, where he received the rudiments of a liberal education, his mother designing him for the ministerial office. The revolution which ended in the emancipation of his country from British thralldom having begun, his studies were interrupted by the ravages of a ruthless enemy, who made an incursion into that quarter of his native state. Consequently, with his brother Robert, by his mother's permission, he joined the American army at fourteen years of age. His eldest brother had previously pursued the same course, and died of heat and fatigue at the battle of Stono.

The superiority of the British, in numbers and discipline, caused the Americans to retire into North Carolina, from which they returned to South Carolina in small parties, after they had learned of the crossing the Yadkin by the British, under Cornwallis. Lord Rawdon was then in possession of Cambden, and had desolated the surrounding country.

In the attack upon the Waxsaw settlers after their return, a party of the British under a Major Coffin captured the two young Jacksons by a *russe-de-guerre*. While prisoners, both were wounded severely with swords by two British officers, for refusing to perform menial services required of them. The wound of Andrew was in his left hand, that of his brother on his head, which terminated his existence shortly after their exchange, which took place a few days before the memorable battle of Cambden. Worn down with grief and affliction, his mother expired shortly after, near Charleston, leaving Andrew an unprotected orphan then confined to a bed of sickness, which had nearly closed his sorrows and his woes.

After his recovery he did not again join the army, but spent without restraint a part of his patrimony before reflection had warned him of the consequences. Finding however that his exertions alone were to waft him through the tumultuous sea of life, he returned to his studies at *New Acquisition*, near Hill's iron works, under a Mr. Mc. Culloch. Here he completed his academic course as far as the place in which he lived and his limited means would permit. Having relinquished all thoughts of the clerical profession, in 1784, at the age of eighteen, he repaired to Salisbury, North Carolina, and studied law under

Spruce Mc. Kay, Esq. and afterwards under Colonel John Stokes. In the winter of 1786, he was licensed to plead at the bar, and remained at Salisbury until 1788, when he accompanied Judge Mc. Nairy, to the state of Tennessee. Although it was his intention to have returned, he was so well pleased with the place, that he determined to make Nashville his future residence. Here the road to preferment was open and plain, and his industry and application to business, soon paved the way for his future elevation. He was several years attorney for the district wherein he resided. The frontiers of Tennessee were much indebted to his energy and patriotism for defence against the remorseless depredations of the savages. When that section of the United States, was about to be admitted a separate member of the federative body, in 1796, he was chosen a member of the Convention for the formation of the State Constitution. The same year he was elected one of the Representatives in Congress from Tennessee, and in the following year, the Legislature of that state appointed him one of their Senators in the Senate of the United States. This situation he resigned in 1799. He succeeded Major-General Conway in the command of the militia of that state which formed but one division. He retained his commission of Major-General of militia, until May, 1814, when he was appointed to the same rank in the army of the United States. Immediately after he resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States, he was appointed to a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the state of Tennessee. This he likewise held but a short time, and retired to an elegant farm about ten miles from Nashville, on Cumberland river.

The clouds which hovered over the political horizon of America, for some years, at last burst furiously into a tornado, and war was declared by the American government, against Great Britain, on the 18th of June, 1812, in order to avenge itself of the manifold injuries heaped upon its citizens from a spirit of commercial jealousy by the British crown, during its long and unjustifiable contest with France. His military talents unfolded themselves in the various occasions he had to inflict chastisement on the tawny sons of the forest, for disturbing the repose of the frontier settlements.

Congress having passed two laws in the year 1812, authorising the President of the United States, to accept the services of fifty thousand volunteers, General Jackson addressed the militia of his division on the subject, and twenty-five hundred with himself at their head, tendered their services to their country.

This being accepted in November the same year, he was directed to descend the Mississippi with this force, for the defence of the lower country which appeared to be menaced.

The troops accordingly rendezvoused at Nashville on the 10th of December, ready to proceed to the object of destination. The weather was at that time severe and the ground covered with snow. However they began to descend the Ohio on the 7th of January, and having reached the Mississippi, they descended to Natchez, where his orders directed him to halt and wait for further instructions. He encamped his troops on a healthy spot, two miles from Washington, Mississippi territory. Here he received an order from the War Department, dated January 5th, directing him to dismiss them in consequence of the cause

ceasing which called forth their services in that quarter, and directing him to deliver over to General Wilkinson, the United States' commanding officer in that section, all the public property in his possession. At this time he had one hundred and fifty men on his sick list, fifty-six of whom were confined to their beds. This, with the low state in which many were in, with regard to their finances, and the promise he had made their relations to act the father to them, determined him not to obey so impolitic and so unjust an order, as that which had emanated from the Secretary at War, the author of "the Newburgh Letters," so famed as the stickler for "soldier's rights," of which determination he made the War Department duly acquainted.

An attempt was made at this time to enlist men from his corps for the regular army, which he totally prohibited, determining to carry with him such of the United States' property as was necessary for the return of his forces to their original place of rendezvous prior to their discharge.

His resolve to disobey his instructions from the War Department respecting the discharge of his men at that distance from their homes, he communicated to his field officers whom he had convoked for the purpose; and notwithstanding their assent three of his Colonels, Martin, Allcorn and Bradley, with some platoon officers, veiled with the mantle of night, retired into conclave, the result of whose deliberations was, a recommendation to him of an immediate discharge of his troops in compliance with his orders. This duplicity of conduct he treated with the indignation he conceived it merited.

When once taken, his resolution was as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Notwithstanding the remonstrative letter of General Wilkinson, General Jackson ordered the quarter-master to furnish the means necessary to convey the sick and baggage of his army back to Tennessee. Seeming to comply, the quarter-master procured eleven waggons, but on the day allotted for the troops to commence their return march, he came forward and discharged them all, in order to defeat the General's intention, by which it was judged the regular army might procure a multitude of recruits. General Jackson, however, seized upon the waggons ere they left his encampment, and thus frustrated a design the quarter-master had in view ; of which disappointment the latter informed General Wilkinson by express.

He arrived with his troops at Nashville, in May following, when he disbanded them according to order, with the exception of place, and advised the President of the United States, of the course he had pursued and his reasons therefor. On the march he deprived himself of the comforts allotted his rank for the benefit of the sick.

Their repose was but of short duration. The Creek Indians between the Chatahoochee and Tombigbee rivers began to manifest strong symptoms of a hostile conduct towards their white neighbours in the United States, and this was by no means allayed by the conduct of the Northern tribes who at the instigation of Great Britain, were preparing to "let slip the dogs of war" on the frontier settlements of the United States.

At this time there appeared among the Shawanees an imposter calling himself "the Prophet," who, at the instigation of British agents, urged the various tribes to lift the tomahawk, and no longer smoke the calumet of peace. The brother

of this villain, named *Tecumseh*, was sent to the Southern Indians to excite a like hostile temper. To effect these objects every artifice which duplicity and cunning could suggest was resorted to, and the success of these machinations was evidenced in the manifold cruelties exercised on those whom chance or the fortune of war threw into their way. On the decrepitude of old age or the imbecility of infancy, alike did the savages display their hellish refinements in torture and death. At first these intrigues were veiled in secrecy; and the garb of deceit was first thrown aside at Fort Mimms on the 30th of August, when the savages having provided themselves with arms and ammunition from the Spaniards at Pensacola, slaughtered in the most cruel and ferocious manner nearly three hundred men, women and children, who had fled thither for safety, seventeen only escaping to bear the doleful tale to the United States.

The news of the massacre at Fort Mimms electrified, as it were, the whole state of Tennessee to avenge their murdered brethren. The legislature of that State enacted a law authorising the State Executive to call into actual service 3500 militia for the purpose of carrying devastation and the sword into the heart of the Creek country, and appropriated \$300,000 for their equipment and support. The Creeks were divided into two parties; the war party prevailed, and the other had to look to the United States for protection. The war party had gathered a formidable body, and were directing their course towards the frontiers of Tennessee, when the Governor of that State issued his order to General Jackson to call out immediately 2000 militia, to rendezvous at Fayetteville. Jackson, at this time, was confined in

consequence of a fractured arm received in a duel a short time before.

Notwithstanding this, he with alacrity obeyed the call. He ordered Colonel Coffee with his cavalry, 500 strong, and mounted riflemen, to proceed with all speed to Huntsville, in order to cover the frontier until the infantry could come up. A part of this latter force was composed of the volunteers who had descended the Mississippi with Jackson the preceding season. The 4th of October was the time appointed for their assemblage.

The General had not sufficiently recovered from his wound when the day for assemblage arrived. He consequently addressed them on the subject of the campaign through the medium of his aid, Major Reid.

His first care was the establishment of strict and wholesome regulations in camp, which he caused to be rigidly observed.

The greatest obstacles he encountered in this campaign proceeded from the contractor's department, the direction of which he was obliged to change more than once.

The friendly Creeks acted in unison and served as spies in conveying information regarding the situation of the war party. The Ten Islands seemed to be their place of rendezvous, and to this place was the march of the army directed. They had reached almost to the Coosa river, and as yet, the East Tennessee troops had not formed a junction. On the march, the 28th October, 29 prisoners of both sexes and all ages were brought into camp, from *Liitafuchee*, (a town on the head of Canoe Creek, which empties into the Coosa,) by a detachment of 200 cavalry, under Colonel Dyer, despatched for the purpose. Failures of contracts continued to obstruct the march of the army.

In the beginning of November, General Jackson learned from some prisoners and negroes brought in, that the enemy were posted in force at Tallushatchee, distant about 13 miles on the south banks of the Coosa. General Coffee with a body of 900 men was sent to dislodge them. This service he completely effected, having killed 186, and taken 84 women and children prisoners, with the loss of five killed and forty-one wounded. His dead being buried, and his wounded taken care of, he joined the main army the same evening.

General Jackson took the necessary steps to create a depot at the Ten Islands, on the north side of the Coosa, supported by strong picketing and a chain of block-houses. He then designed to descend the Coosa to its confluence with the Talladoosa, near which he was informed the savages were in force. The army exerted their strength in hastening the execution of the General's design, and the works were dignified with the name of "Fort Strother." On the 7th of December, in the evening, he was advised of a hostile force collected about thirty miles below, who meditated an attack on Talladega, in which the friendly Indians were shut up, momentarily expecting an assault.

Notwithstanding the disappointment he experienced from the jealous conduct of General Cocke, who was of equal grade with himself, General Jackson moved his force judiciously to attack the enemy, in their then position, before they attempted an assault upon the friendly Creeks, or by a circuitous movement, could steal upon his encampment upon Fort Strother. Arrived in the vicinity of Talladega, every disposition of force was made to insure victory. The attack began. The savage foe was routed, and victory was com-

plete. The force of the enemy was 1080, of whom 299 were left dead on the field of battle—many were killed in the flight, and few escaped unhurt. There were not less of them than 600 put *hors de combat*, while the Americans lost only 15 killed and 80 wounded, several of whom died afterwards.

To detail the difficulties General Jackson had to encounter in providing sustenance for his troops, in quelling mutinies, resulting from deprivations, and in surmounting difficulties, springing from the jealousies of rival officers, would too far exceed the limits of this work, which consequently confines the writer to a brief sketch of the more important transactions of his life. It is sufficient to mention, that the conduct of General Cocke to weave for himself a distinct chaplet for his own brow, was deleterious to the public service, and in a great degree marred the operations of General Jackson, who, if well seconded, by his contractors and the troops under the General from East Tennessee, would have inflicted an early castigation, greater by far than they experienced at Talladega, and have put a speedy termination to the Creek war. Thus would many valuable lives have been saved to families and to the State, which were immolated on the altar of a mean and jealous ambition. Wherever the General met the foe he was triumphant—his troops were brave, but they were neither just to their own fame nor to their country, for whose sake patriotism cried aloud for the greatest sacrifices.

At the battle of Talladega the Hillabees were the most distinguished sufferers, shortly after which they sued for peace. General Jackson was disposed to comply with their wishes, provided the instigators of the war, the property and prisoners

taken from the Americans and friendly Creeks, and the murderers of the citizens of the United States, at Fort Mimms were given up. On the morning that Jackson's despatch was written to General Cocke, informing of the proposition of the Hillabees, General White, acting under Cocke's orders, had attacked a Hillabee town, killed 60, and made 256 prisoners. This event procrastinated the Creek war, for not one of the remainder of the Hillabees were afterwards known to ask for quarter, but fought until death terminated their struggle.

After encountering all the difficulties which resulted from the mutinous disposition of his otherwise brave and patriotic troops who returned home, he, on the 2d of January following received an accession of 850 new troops, officered by men of their own choice. The difficulties respecting the command of these by General Coffee under Jackson being adjusted, the army, less than 900 strong, began its march from Fort Strother, for Talladega, where were collected about 200 friendly Cherokee and Creek Indians. These afforded an aggregate army of about 1000 men, badly armed and as badly equipped, with which Jackson was to invade the hostile Creek territory, that he might create a diversion in favour of General Floyd, who was advancing with the forces from Georgia. It was thought about this time that the information was correct, that the warriors from fourteen towns, near Tallapoossee, were to unite their strength and attack Fort Armstrong. Arriving at Talladega, General Jackson received advice from the Commander of Fort Armstrong that that post was menaced.

Falling on some trails on the 21st of January, General Jackson discovered by his spies, that the

enemy was not three miles distant. At the dawn of the 22d, the savages commenced a furious attack on the American left, under Colonel Higgins, which bore the brunt of the action. In half an hour the Indians were routed and chased two miles from the field of battle. The defeat was complete. The loss of the Americans was only five killed and twenty wounded. This was fought at an Indian town called Emuckfaw. Having returned from the pursuit of the routed enemy, General Jackson despatched General Coffee with 400 men to destroy the Indian encampment, if not too strong. Having reconnoitred its position, he judiciously returned to the main body without making an attack.

In less than an hour after his return to camp, the savages commenced an attack, by way of feint, on Jackson's right, which gave General Coffee the chance of fighting them in equal combat. The conflict lasted about one hour, with nearly the same loss, when, by means of a reinforcement from General Jackson, the Indians were defeated. General Coffee was severely wounded, but continued to fight while the battle lasted: In the mean time Jackson's whole force was attacked, which terminated in the overthrow of the savages. This was called the second battle of Emuckfaw.

Jackson repaired litters for his wounded and commenced his return to the Ten Islands, taking every precaution to prevent the savages from attacking by surprise. The next day, (January 23,) however, as he was crossing a Creek at a place called *Enotichopco*, the savages began another battle, and the confusion that ensued by giving way of part of the American force, had nearly proved fatal to them. The savages were, how-

ever, by the resolute bravery of a part of the Americans, totally defeated. The whole American loss in the several conflicts fought during these two days, was 20 killed and 75 wounded. The loss of the Indians was more than 200 who never returned from battle.

General Jackson, having transported his camp equipage and provisions down the Coosa river, directed his volunteers and company of artillery to be marched home and honourably dismissed.

On the 3d of February, the Governor of Tennessee (Blount) issued his order for a detachment of 2500 militia of the second division to rendezvous on the 28th of the same month, for three months' service, in conformity to a law of Congress. General Cocke, brought, by requisition, about 2000 men from West Tennessee, badly armed, and at the same time pursued a highly dishonourable and disgraceful line of conduct, to produce the failure of the campaign. Jealous of another's fame, envy was the fiend that meanly lurked in his bosom.

Colonel Williams arrived at camp with 600 men badly armed. General Johnson with his brigade arrived on the 14th of February. General Doherty, from East Tennessee, had arrived, and Jackson found himself at the head of a raw and undisciplined army of 5000 men. To repress a spirit of mutiny, which exhibited itself in times of scarcity and inactivity, an example was become necessary. A private of the name of John Wood had manifested a mutinous disposition, was taken into custody, Court-Martial called, and sentenced to be shot. This was rigidly executed, and it produced the happiest consequences.

The infamous conduct of General Cocke, in endeavouring to produce the disaffection of Gene-

ral Doherty's brigade, in order to defeat the object of the campaign, induced General Jackson to issue orders to Doherty, to seize and send to Fort Strother, every officer, regardless of rank, who should be guilty of exciting mutiny in camp.

Apprehensive of consequences, Cocke timely retired, and escaped punishment.

Colonel Dyer was about this time, despatched with 600 men to the head of Black Warrior, to disperse any Indians that might be in force in that quarter, and otherwise cut off their supplies of the army. After eight days march along the banks of the Cohowba, the detachment returned to camp. They had fallen in with a trail, but discovered no enemy.

Having dismissed all invalids and troops badly equipped, General Jackson commenced his march for Fort Strother, on the 14th of March, and arrived on the 21st at the mouth of Cedar Creek, on the site of Fort Williams. Here he left Brigadier-General Johnson, with an adequate force for the protection of the fort, and eight days provision; and began his march on the 24th, for the Tallapoosa, by way of Emuckfaw, in order to dislodge the Indian encampment, near the Oakfusky villages, which had been surveyed and left unattacked by General Coffee on the 22d of January last, on account of its strong position. On the 27th, after fifty-two miles march, he arrived at the village of Tohopeka. Here the Indians were strongly posted at the Horse-shoe, and it was necessary to dislodge them. The dislodgement was effected with great skill and bravery. This battle was the death blow to the hopes of the savage war-party. So bloody was the conflict, that only four savages surrendered prisoners, with 600 women and children. Some few escaped, but they

generally met death with a bravery becoming a better cause. Jackson's loss was, including the friendly Indians, 55 killed and 146 wounded. Having accomplished the object of his march, he returned with his troops unmolested, to Fort Williams. He paraded his army on the 2d of April, and delivered then a most pertinent address on the destruction of the Tallapoosee confederacy.

Learning that the savages had collected in force at Hoithlewalee, not far from a place called the Hickory Ground, he left his sick and wounded at the fort under command of Brigadier-General Johnson, and began his march with all his disposable troops on the 7th of April, to attack the enemy at Hoithlewalee, and to effect a junction with the North Carolina troops under General Graham, and the Georgia troops under Colonel Milton, who were advancing on the south of the Tallapoosee. Owing to the rains, which occasioned a swell in the creeks, he did not reach the place of attack until the enemy, being apprized of his approach, had fled, leaving him nothing but an empty village, which a part of his army, who had passed the creek, destroyed. This was on the 13th, and on the next day he formed a junction with the Georgia troops.

About this time, the head warriors of the tribes settled on the Hickory Ground, and sued for peace. The General required as a proof of their sincerity, they should remove and settle in the rear of the army and to the north of Fort Williams. In the mean time, detachments were sent out to scour the country in various directions. He then proceeded with the army to the site near the mouth of the Coosa, where Fort Jackson was to be built. Weathersford, the principal of actors in the massacre at Fort Mimms, presented himself

voluntary before General Jackson, as a suppliant for peace, and behaved with the dignity of a fallen hero, which would grace the character of a man in the most civilized ages of any nation or country. Determined not to be outdone in magnanimity, Jackson suffered him to depart, leaving it optional with himself to make good his professions for peace, or collect the scattered remnant of his nation to prosecute the war. He at the same time informed him, that, should he prefer the latter, if taken in arms, his life should pay the forfeit of his crimes.

General Pinckney arrived on the 20th of April, and took upon himself the command.

Having accomplished the object of the campaign by the total destruction of the confederacy and re-establishment of peace, General Pinckney directed the return of the west Tennessee troops to their homes, and caused seven hundred and twenty-five men from General Doherty's brigade from east Tennessee, whose time of service had not nearly expired, to be detailed for garrisoning the line of forts. Four hundred men had been left to garrison Fort Williams. The country had been scoured for fugitive savages—Jackson proceeded with the remainder of his troops on his march home, crossed Tennessee river, reached camp Blount near Fayetteville, and discharged his troops from further service.

The dispersed war party had taken refuge within the Floridas, particularly at Pensacola. In consequence of the resignation of General Hampton, General Jackson received a commission from the War Department, dated 22d May, constituting him a Brigadier-General and Major-General *by brevet* in the regular army of the United States. General Harrison shortly after resigned,

and he was appointed a Major-General, to supply the vacancy. He was directed by his government to open a treaty with the Indians, for which purpose he arrived at the Alabama with a small retinue, on the 10th of July, and on the 10th of August effected the execution of a treaty highly satisfactory to the United States.

In consequence of a deviation from the strict laws of neutrality by the Spanish Governor of West-Florida, in the aid and succour he afforded the hostile Indians, General Jackson turned his attention towards Pensacola. Three hundred English troops had landed and were fortifying themselves at the mouth of the Apalachicola. They were also employed in instigating the savages to further acts of hostility. Of this fact the General became acquainted on his way to the Alabama; and despatched information of the fact to his government. On his arrival at Fort Jackson he used all diligence to make himself fully acquainted with the state of affairs with the Spaniards, English, and Savages. On account of the perfidious conduct of the Governor of Pensacola, he opened a correspondence with that officer, who exposed the duplicity of his demeanour in the imbecility of his logic. Having disposed of affairs at Fort Jackson, he started next day for Mobile. In consequence of the storm which he was satisfied was gathering in that quarter he lost no time in putting the country in as good a posture of defence as his limited means would admit. His whole disposable force of the United States' troops consisted of the 3d and parts of the 44th and 39th. The patriotism of the people of Tennessee was again to be tested. General Coffee was written to by Colonel Butler, to advance as speedily as possible with all the mounted

troops he could collect. The Colonel who had received the request at Nashville on the 9th of September, was to follow with all the volunteers he could procure, with the least possible delay. In fourteen days, Captains Baker and Butler arrived at Mobile with two companies of newly enlisted regular troops; and the Tennessee troops commenced their march with alacrity and spirit.

The arrival at Pensacola, of Colonel Nicholls with a small British squadron, the attack on Fort Bowyer, at which the British were valiantly repulsed by one tenth of their numbers, and their reception by Governor Marquinez, at Pensacola, after their repulse, determined General Jackson to proceed against that capital.

General Coffee arrived with his brigade, consisting of 2300, at the *Cut-off*, a place above Fort St. Stephens, and was visited in his encampment by General Jackson on the 26th of October. One thousand of the brigade engaged as mounted men, on account of the difficulty of subsisting cavalry, without murmur, dismounted, and left their horses behind, to serve as infantry.

The British and Spaniards, divining the intentions of Jackson, made every disposition for the defence of Pensacola. The American army, 3000 strong, took up their line of march on the 2d of November and encamped before it on the 6th. Determined to dislodge the British from that post, he previously demanded of Governor Marquinez, an explanation of his conduct. The flag bearing the demand was fired upon and the officer returned. The British flag, the day before the attack, waved on the ramparts in unison with the Spanish—the following day the Spanish waved alone to protect a foe of the United States un-

der its dastardly banners. Subsequent communications took place ; the Governor lodged all his faults on the shoulders of his English friends. From the deceptive behaviour of the Spaniards, no reliance was to be placed on their professions, and it became necessary to use force. The place was taken—the British driven away—the Spaniards humbled—the Barraneas forts fourteen miles distant, commanding the harbour, blown up by the British. The blowing up of the Barraneas was a great mortification to the Spaniards, and, at the same time, defeated General Jackson's object of retaining possession of the town and fortifications, until the pleasure of his Government should be made known, as he bottomed his conduct on the urgency of the case without awaiting their pleasure. The left column, in this attack, alone met with resistance. The Americans had twenty wounded and none killed. In consequence of the destruction of the Barraneas, General Jackson relinquished the possession of Pensacola to Governor Marquinez, who immediately set about constructing the Barraneas. In this work the British commanding officer proffered assistance. Marquinez answered that when help was needed he should apply to his friend General Jackson.

In consequence of the result of this expedition, the Indians refuged in Florida, finding themselves without British aid, fled to the Apalachicola, and some fled on board the British shipping, and were afterwards put on shore, to act for themselves. Major Blue of the 39th regiment was despatched to dislodge the Indians at Apalachicola, assisted by General Mc. Intosh with the Georgia troops, then in the Creek country. Having effected this object, they were ordered to the defence of Mobile.

General Winchester arrived at the Alabama, and Jackson delivered to him the command of that portion of territory on the 22d of November, and hastened to New-Orleans where he conceived his presence most necessary.

In taking possession of the command of Louisiana he found somewhat of a new theatre of action. The Legislature of the territory had seconded the General's views in every measure of defence; and prior to his relinquishment of the Mobile command, he had continually corresponded with Governor Claiborne for that object. It was now become manifest, that some point on the Mississippi was the object of attack by the enemy, and more especially New-Orleans. Obstructions and defences were made as barriers to all the passes which led that way. Gun-boats were sent into Lake Borgne. Every defence was made when the British appeared off the coast, at Cat and Ship island, within a short distance from the American lines. On the 13th of December the enemy moved off in his barges towards Pass Christian.

In the act of bringing off a small depot of public stores at the bay of St. Louis, the gun-boat *Sea-Horse*, Johnson commander, in a second attack from the enemy, was blown up by her crew, who with her commander retreated by land.

On the 14th, the American gun-boat fleet, consisting of five vessels, 182 men, and 23 guns, was attacked by a British force of forty-three gun-boats, 1200 men, and 43 guns. The Americans were vanquished with the loss of six killed and 35 wounded. The loss of the British was not less than 300. Notwithstanding the prowess of the Americans, they from motives of humanity and unyielding necessity, surrendered to a superior force.

This unexpected blow marred in prospective all the views of Jackson. He apprized General Winchester of the unhappy disaster, the probable result, and gave his advice respecting measures to be pursued, in order to ward off the consequences.

While his clouds of danger thickened, the sky of his reputation was brightening. He inspirited his troops, and the population generally. Expecting that the blow would be directed against New Orleans, he exerted every energy for the protection of that important post. Having reviewed and addressed the militia on the importance of the occasion, he dispatched an express in quest of General Coffee, which reached him on the 17th of December, and that officer by the most persevering industry, encountering difficulties by disease and weather, arrived within fifteen miles of New Orleans on the 19th, a distance of 150 miles. On the 20th he halted within four miles of that city. The troops had braved the dangers of weather and climate in a march of more than 800 miles without murmur. Such is the effect of men, when engaged in support of the native dignity of their character. General Carroll was likewise advancing with a brigade for defensive operations, of which he advised General Jackson by his aid, Colonel Hynes.

However feeble his force might be, he determined to meet the enemy on the threshold of their landing. The government of the United States were continually advised, both of his apprehensions and means of defence. Assistance poured in in some sections and disappointments in others, and chagrin often crowned his exertions.—The path the General had to tread was thorny in the extreme, assailed as he was, by the wiles of the ene-

my on one side, and discontent from the disaffected on the other.

The period arrived which tested the sternness of his character : Imbecility, fear, and treason, united against the direct path of patriotism, he was constrained for the safety of the state, to proclaim *martial law* at New Orleans. The event shew the wisdom of the measure to avoid deleterious results from the conflicting passions which then agitated the public mind. Smothering treason wherever it appeared, and concentrating every other feeling into one common reservoir to repel a common foe, Jackson was obliged to act, not according to law, but circumstances. General Carroll joined Coffee's encampment on the 21st of December, and reported himself accordingly. The Kentucky troops had not yet arrived ; and, notwithstanding every vigilance, the British effected a landing within seven miles of New Orleans. The secretness of the embarkation was ascribed to the treachery of the naturalized Spanish fishermen who supplied that market with fish. Their debarkation was announced to the General after the capture of the guard at Bayou Bienvenue, on the 22d of December. A knowledge of this event threw the city into the greatest consternation. Signal guns were fired—expresses were forwarded—forces were concentrated, and every preparation adopted for defence.

General Jackson advanced against him, determined to attack him in his first position. The attack was made in the night of the 23d December, at half past seven o'clock. It was commenced by a fire from the schooner *Caroline*, which dropped down the river, in order to open on the rear of the camp. This was the signal for General Coffee to fall on the right, while General Jackson at-

tacked the left near the river.—It resulted honourably to the American arms ; but produced nothing decisive. The enemy's force amounted to about 3000 men ; that of General Jackson did not exceed 1500 men. The conflict lasted an hour, and was supported with great firmness. General Jackson remained on the field until four o'clock in the morning, when he took a new position two miles nearer the city ; having lost in this affair, 24 killed, 115 wounded, and 74 missing—total 213.

The enemy succeeded, on the 27th, in blowing up the *Caroline*, (she being becalmed) by means of hot shot, from a land battery, erected in the night. On the 26th, he advanced, with his whole force, against General Jackson, in the hope of driving him from his position, and with this view opened a fire with bombs and rockets, at the distance of about half a mile. The enemy was repulsed, with a loss of about 120 men. The Americans lost seven killed and had eight wounded.

On Sunday morning, the 1st of January, 1815, the enemy had advanced within 600 yards of the American breast works, under cover of night and a heavy fog, and had erected the preceding night, three different batteries, mounting in all 15 guns, from 6's to 32's. About eight o'clock, when the fog cleared off, they commenced a most tremendous fire upon the Americans, but it was amply returned by them, and a heavy cannonading was kept up, without the least interval on either side, except that occasioned by the explosion of a magazine in the rear of one of the American batteries, and another magazine in the night, owing to the enemy's Congreve rockets. By four o'clock in the afternoon, the Americans had dismounted all the enemy's guns except two. They retreated, during the night, to their strong hold, about a mile and a

quarter from the American camp. Twice did the enemy attempt to storm and carry the American batteries, but were as often deceived. On New-Year's day the loss of the Americans was 11 killed and 23 badly wounded. That of the enemy, from the accounts of two prisoners taken on that day, and three deserters afterwards, must have been much greater.

According as the woodsmen arrived to the aid of General Jackson's army, they were disposed of to the best advantage, for the purpose of defence; but these forces not being of a very efficient nature, especially as the men could not be all provided with the necessary arms, the General could not attempt any thing against an enemy, who was thus left to pursue, undisturbed, his laborious operations.

During the days of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed in making preparations for an attack on Jackson's lines.—With infinite labour, they had succeeded on the night of the 7th, in getting their boats across from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal, on which they had effected their disembarkation.

General Jackson was on the left side of the river, patiently waiting the attack. General Morgan, with the New Orleans contingent; the Louisiana militia, and a detachment of Kentucky troops, occupied an intrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the bank, superintended by Commodore Patterson.

On Sunday, the 8th, at half past 6 o'clock, A. M. the enemy began a very heavy cannonade upon the American lines, from his batteries, of 18 and 12 pounders, supported by the musketry of 2500 men, who marched in close columns, and advanc-

ed nearer than musket shot distance to the intrenchments, armed with rockets, obuses, and facines, to storm the batteries : they directed their principal attack against the head of the line, flanked by the river, and upon the left resting upon the cipress swamp, as well as against the tirailleurs and riflemen, placed above the said swamp ; the roaring of the guns, and firing of the musketry, lasted two hours and a quarter ; the enemy's mortars, although directed against the centre, did no harm to the troops ; the bursting of their bombs in the works was of no effect. Two British officers, and one French engineer, of the name of Rennie, who had gained the summit of the American parapet, was killed or wounded, and made prisoners ; (the engineer and one Colonel was killed ;) after this affair, the field, in front of the works, was strewed with British wounded and killed.

General Jackson thus briefly details the particulars of attack :

“In my encampment every thing was ready for action ; when early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy, after throwing a shower of bombs and Congreve rockets, advanced their columns at my right and left, to storm my intrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness and deliberation with which my whole line received their approach. More could not have been expected from veterans inured to war. For an hour, the fire of small arms was as incessant and severe as can be imagined.—The artillery, too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution. Yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance with firmness which reflects upon them the greatest credit. Twice, the column, which approached me on my

left, was repulsed by the troops of General Carroll, those of General Coffee, and a division of the Kentucky militia, and twice they formed again, and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded."

Simultaneously with the attack on General Jackson's lines, an attack was made on the works of General Morgan. Had the enemy been met with resolution in this attack, it must have produced his entire destruction ; but, unfortunately, the Kentucky reinforcements fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the forces, and leaving the batteries to the enemy ; not, however, until after the guns were spiked. While General Jackson was preparing to dislodge the enemy from the captured battery, the British troops were withdrawn, and the post re-occupied by the Americans.

The return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, taken at the battle of Mac Prardie's plantation, on the left bank of the Mississippi, on the morning of the 8th January, 1815, and five miles below the city of New-Orleans, consisted of—killed, 700 ; wounded, 1400 ; prisoners, 500—total 2600.

Among the slain, was General Sir Edward Packenham, the Chief, and General Gibbs, the third in command ; General Keane, the second in command, was severely wounded. General Lambert succeeded to the command.

His total loss in the different engagements, was not less than 5600. The loss to the Americans, on the 8th, on both sides of the river, was 13 killed, 39 wounded, and 19 missing ; total killed, wounded, and missing, this day, 71 ; of this number there

were but six killed, and seven wounded, in the action of the line.

The enemy intended to pass Fort Philip, in order to co-operate with the land forces in the attack at New-Orleans. On the 9th January, at half past three, P. M. the enemy's bomb vessels opened their fire against the fort, from our sea mortars, two of them thirteen inches, and two of ten, at so great a distance, that the shot from the fort could not reach him. The enemy's fire continued with little intermission, and with little interruption from the fort, during the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th. On the evening of the 17th, a heavy mortar was got in readiness, and opened on the enemy, with great effect. At day-light on the 18th, the enemy retired, after having thrown upwards of one thousand heavy shells, besides small shells, from the howitzers, round shot and grape, which he discharged from boats, under cover of the night. Scarcely ten feet of the garrison remained untouched; yet the loss of men was small, consisting of two killed, and seven wounded. This saving of men was owing to the great pains taken by the officers to keep their men under cover.

All the enemy's movements, after the action of the 8th of January, were calculated to secure his retreat, should such prove necessary, as appearances then indicated that it would. Their intention was, however, masked by a menacing attitude, as if preparing for a renewal of the attack on Jackson's line. They had erected batteries to cover their retreat, in advantageous positions, from their original encampment to the Bayou, through which they entered Lake Borgne. The cannon placed on these batteries could have raked a pursuing army in every direction. The situ-

ation of the ground, through which they retired, was protected by canals, redoubts, intrenchments and swamps, on the right ; and the river on the left.

After the action of the 8th, the artillery on both sides of the river, was constantly employed in annoying the enemy. An attempt to storm his batteries would have produced great slaughter among the Americans, been doubtful of success, and might possibly have induced the enemy to delay his departure ; therefore General Jackson resolved to secure the advantage obtained, with the least possible loss or hazard.

All hope which the enemy had of reducing Fort Philip, had vanished ; and on the night of the 18th, they precipitately decamped, and returned to their shipping, leaving behind them 80 of their wounded, 14 pieces of heavy artillery, and an immense number of ball, having destroyed much of their powder.

Mr. Shields, purser in the navy, on the 16th and 17th of January, in letters to his friend, says :

“ The day after the gun-boats were taken, I was sent down under a flag of truce, to ascertain the fate of our officers and men, with power to negotiate an exchange, especially for the wounded. But the enemy would make no terms—they treated the flag with contempt, and myself and the surgeon, who was with me, as prisoners, until the 18th inst. He has now lowered his tone, and begs the exchange that we offered. Defeat has humbled the arrogance of the enemy, *who had promised his soldiers forty-eight hours pillage and rapine of the city of New-Orleans !!*

The watch-word and countersign of the enemy, on the morning of the 8th, was BEAUTY and BOOTY. Comment is unnecessary on these sig-

nificant allusions held out to a licentious soldiery.

Thus ended, in disgrace and discomfiture to the enemy, an expedition which occupied several months in its preparation, and was composed of at least 10,000 troops, drawn from almost every part of the world, where the British had garrisons or soldiers. Nothing was left undone to secure the occupation of an immense province, and the command of a river extending thousands of miles through the most fertile countries in the world ; and on which several of the United States depended as an outlet and market for their produce.

From an official account, it appeared, that the number of men under command of General Jackson, and actually engaged against the enemy, on the 8th January, amounted to 4,698. The enemy's force, by his account, exceeded 10,000.

By an article in a Jamaica paper, of the 3d December, it was stated, that the expedition then prepared to go against the United States, under command of Sir Alexander Cochrane, and Maj. Gen. Keane, (the same that afterwards entered the Mississippi,) consisted of one ship of 80 guns, five of 74, three of 50, one of 44, six of 38, two of 36, three of 32, three of 16, two of 14, and three of 6 guns—total 29 vessels, carrying 1084 guns ; besides a great number of cutters, transports, &c.

On the 21st Jan. Gen. Jackson directed an address to be publicly read at the head of each of the corps composing the lines near New-Orleans. It must have been a difficult and delicate task to do justice to individuals, where all acted so well, proving, in the General's words, " that a rampart of high minded men is a better defence, than the most regular fortification."

This address contained the following emphatical paragraph,

“ Reasoning always from false principles, they (the enemy) expected little opposition from men whose officers even were not in uniform, who were ignorant of the rules of dress, and who had never been caned into discipline—fatal mistake! a fire incessantly kept up, directed with calmness, and with unerring aim, strewed the field with the brave officers and men of the column which slowly advanced, according to the most approved rules of European *tactics*, and was cut down by the *untutored* courage of the American militia. Unable to sustain this galling and unceasing fire, some hundreds nearest the intrenchments called for quarters, which was granted—the rest, retreating, were rallied at some distance, but only to make them a surer mark for the grape and canister shot of our artillery, which, without exaggeration, *mowed down whole ranks at every discharge*; and, at length, they precipitately retreated from the field.”

Several desperate characters, citizens of the United States, as well as foreigners, natives of different countries, had associated themselves into a band of pirates, under their chief Lafitte, and had taken up their residence in the island of Barrataria, near the mouth of the Mississippi. The government of the United States caused this unlawful establishment to be broken up. The expedition against the Barratarians, took possession of all the piratical vessels, their prizes, and a considerable quantity of arms and property, without opposition, on the 16th September, 1814. The vessels thus taken, consisted of six schooners, and one felucca, cruisers and prizes of the pirates, one brig, a prize, and two armed schooners, both in line of battle with the armed vessels of the pirates. The establishment on shore, which was also taken possession of, consisted of about 40 houses. The pirates had

mounted on their vessels 20 pieces of cannon, of different calibres, and their number consisted of between 800 and 1000 men, of all nations and colours. The expedition against the pirates was under command of Com. Patterson, of the navy, having on board a detachment of land troops, under command of Colonel Ross.

The Barratarian pirates took part in the defence of New-Orleans against the British, and were both active and serviceable. It was, also, satisfactorily ascertained, that they had, previous to their dispersion, refused an alliance with the British, rejecting the most seducing terms of invitation. Induced, by these considerations, and at the recommendation of the General Assembly of the state of Louisiana, the President of the United States granted to such of them as aided in defence of New-Orleans, a full pardon for all offences against the laws of the United States, committed previous to the 8th January, 1815.

Upon the approach of the enemy, a portion of the French population, obtained from the resident French Consul, certificates of French citizenship. The General allowed their validity; but sent these alien exempts from military duty, under a military guard, one hundred and twenty miles from his camp and besieged city, to Baton Rouge, in the interior.

A printer had misrepresented that General Jackson's order of removal applied indiscriminately to the whole French population. The French Consul, Toussard, a second time resisted the martial law by claiming for his king individuals of the city militia. He even erected a standard, and under pretext of the violations of the liberty of the French citizens, invited them to revolt. General Jackson considering further forbearance as criminally en-

dangering the lives of even these mongrel citizens, and as calculated to betray the city to the enemy, arrested this Consul; and a Judge (Hall) of the Supreme Court issued a writ of *habeas corpus* to compel the enlargement of the prisoner. The General still determined to maintain his martial law, and thereby bind together this heterogeneous population to the defence of the city, ordered the Judge into confinement, and to be removed without the lines of defence. Boldly indeed, and with an unyielding spirit, the General compelled and controled the public safety.

After the peace was officially known at New-Orleans to have been ratified, and when the martial law had ceased to operate, General Jackson was cited to answer before the Judge, whom he had arrested, to show cause why an attachment should not issue against the General for a contempt of the court in sundry particulars relating to the writ of *habeas corpus*. The General disdaining to evade a requisition of the law submitted himself to the court, and by his counsel, offered to present to it his defence in writing, but which was contumeliously rejected without being read. This trial, which precluded also a jury, was continued from day to day for several days, when on the last day General Jackson walked into the court-house with admirable composure, and exemplary respect for the high authority which called him thither. He approached the judges with a paper in his hand, having dispensed with the friendly offices of the professional gentlemen who had managed his case before. The Judge informed the General that there were interrogatories to be pronounced to him, to which he was desired to respond: the General replied that he would not answer them, saying, "Sir, my defence in this ac-

cusation has been offered, and you have denied its admission, you have refused me an opportunity of explaining my motives, and the necessity for the adoption of the martial law in repelling an invading foe," pointing out at the same moment his objections to that mode of proceeding under which the enquiry was had, to know whether or not the attachment should issue. "I was then with these brave fellows in arms," (alluding to the surrounding crowd.) "You were not, Sir." The Judge went on to read his opinion. The General interrupted him with much apparent deliberation, saying, "Sir, state facts and confine yourself to them. Since my defence is, and has been precluded, let not censure constitute a part of this sought for punishment." To which the Judge replied—"It is with delicacy, General, that I speak of your name or character—I consider you the saviour of the country; but for your contempt of authority, or that effect, you will pay a fine of one thousand dollars." Here the General interrupted by filling a check for that sum, on the bank, and presenting it to the marshal, which was received in discharge. The General then retired, observing, on his passage to the door, "it will be my turn next."

At the door he was received amid the acclamations of the exclaiming populace, with which the streets and avenues were filled. A coach waited at the door of the court-house, into which he was carried and seated, the shafts and handles of which were eagerly seized by the people.—In this way he was precipitated through the streets to the French coffee-house, amid the shouts of *vive le General Jackson*, and denouncing his prosecutors, thence to the American coffee-house, where the General addressed the crowd as follows :

"Fellow Citizens and Soldiers—Behold your General, under whom, but a few days ago, you occupied the tented field, braving all the privations and dangers in repelling and defeating your country's exterior enemies, under the rules and discipline of the camp, so indispensable to the hope of victory; rules which were predicated upon necessity, and which met the approbation of every patriot. Behold him now, bending under a specious pretext of redressing your country's civil authority, which, though wrought through prejudice, he scorns to deny or oppose, but cheerfully submits to what is inflicted upon him, now that the difficulties under which we groaned are removed, and the discipline of the camp summons you no more to arms. It is the highest duty and pride of all good men to pay their tribute of respect to the guardian of our civil liberties. Remember this last charge, as in a few days I expect to leave you: it may serve as a lesson to yourselves and posterity."

Mr. Davezac gave the substance of the preceding remarks from the General in French; after which the General was conducted to the coach, and drawn to his quarters in Fauxburg Marigny, followed by the multitude, echoing, *vive le General Jackson*.

The fine was afterwards paid by a voluntary subscription of one dollar each, by one thousand citizens.

Addresses, which seemed necessarily to comprise the mass of the city population of New-Orleans, were presented to the General, not only approving, but extolling, in the most grateful language, his military conduct. Congress also passed, unanimously, resolutions of thanks to the General for the defence which he made, and an

emblematic gold medal, with devices of his splendid achievements, has been ordered to be presented to him. Addresses and resolutions of thanks from other and minor bodies from various parts of the Union, also evince the gratitude of this numerous people to the General, for his almost unequalled victories.

Peace having been promulgated the militia were discharged. The General was relieved in his command by General Gaines, and returned to Nashville welcomed by his fellow citizens with the greatest applause.

When the army was reduced to a peace establishment, General Jackson was retained in the service, and appointed to command the Southern Military District. In the summer of 1817, he was appointed a Commissioner to treat with the Creek Indians respecting a purchase of land, which having effected, he returned to Nashville with his suite in the month of August.

In his person the General is tall, thin and spare. Six feet one inch in height, he usually weighs about one hundred and fifteen pounds. Easy and affable in his deportment, stern and inflexible in his resolves, he commands respect. He is generous and humane, but of an irritable temper. In his politics, the General was of the republican school. His sallies of temper has more than once subjected him to disputes which were terminated only in the field of chivalric honour.

MAJOR-GENERAL

ELEAZER WHEELOCK RIPLEY

WAS born at Hanover, New-Hampshire, the seat of Dartmouth College, April 15th, 1782. He is the grandson of the venerable and pious founder of that institution, Dr. Eleazer Wheelock, whose name he bears, and nephew of the present learned president, honourable John Wheelock, L. L. D. His father, the Reverend Sylvanus Ripley, a graduate of the first class, and the first professor of Divinity in the College, died in the beginning of the year 1787, universally respected and beloved. Of the young family of six children, thus left, in circumstances not affluent, to the care of an intelligent and pious mother, the subject of this sketch was the second son, then in the fifth year of his age.

He pursued with assiduity the studies preparatory for admission into college; and having completed his academic course, he received the first honours of the University in 1800. He then applied himself to the study of the law, and shortly afterwards was admitted to practice in the county court of Kennebunk, in the District of Maine, state of Massachusetts. At the bar he manifested talents which ranked him among the higher order of barristers, and procured him a popularity that introduced him to a seat in the Legislature of his native state, as a Representative from the town of Winslow or Waterville, as soon as the qualification of age would admit. In that body he was not an inefficient member. His political course was marked with action based on the principles of the Constitution of the United States.

and the rights of mankind. To contend with political opponents who had evinced talents, such as ranked them high as statesmen, was a task of no ordinary magnitude, and he who undertook it, if triumphant, was sure to stand high in party honours.

In January 1812, he was elected Speaker of the Legislature of Massachusetts, in the place of the honourable Joseph Storey, who had then just been elevated to a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. At this period he had scarcely attained his 30th year, so fast were his "blushing honours thickening on him." The subsequent session of the Legislature, held in May, he was not a member. Having removed to Portland, he was chosen a Senator from Cumberland and Oxford, and took his seat accordingly in the Senate of Massachusetts. In the March following, he disappointed all the fond anticipations of his friends in regard to his rising greatness, by accepting a Lieutenant-Colonel's commission in the army of the United States. The relations then existing between the United States and Great Britain, it was rightly supposed, would eventuate in an open rupture, and he had directed his attentions to the tented field to avenge the wrongs heaped on his country by that haughty and overbearing nation. On the eve of the declaration of war he had been intrusted by General Dearborn with the command of the forts and harbours on the extreme Eastern coast of the Union. In this station he manifested an activity in disciplining his men and strengthening his fortifications, which proclaimed his worth as an officer. In September, 1812, he marched from Portland and reached Plattsburgh in October, a distance of more than 400 miles. Here he joined

the Northern army commanded by Brigadier-General Bloomfield. After the campaign had closed he retired into winter-quarters at Burlington, in Vermont, where, by unwearied exertions he increased his regiment to 700 men before the following spring. His regiment became remarkable for its accuracy in discipline and neatness of dress.

On the 12th of March, 1813, Lieutenant-Colonels Ripley, Gaines, and Scott, were promoted at the same time to the ranks of Colonels.

In ten days of that month Gen. Ripley marched his regiment from Plattsburgh to Sackett's Harbour. At the attack on York in Upper Canada, April 27th, "he fleshed his maiden sword."

General Dearborn, with 1700 chosen troops, embarked at Sackett's Harbour, and having arrived before York, confided the immediate command in the attack to the gallant General Pike.

The American army, having debarked, formed in two lines. The 21st regiment divided into six platoons, with Colonel Mc. Clure's volunteers on their flanks, composed the second line. Thus disposed they moved on to the attack in columns, when the British General, panic-struck, retreated blowing up one of his magazines. The explosion was tremendous, and friend and foe were its common victims—General Pike was mortally wounded, and died smiling in the arms of victory—Colonel Ripley was slightly wounded, and the command devolved on Colonel Pearce, of the 16th regiment, until General Dearborn came on shore. The British General Sheaffe, was distinctly seen on his retreat, and the wounded Colonel Ripley pressed his pursuit without delay. The apprehension of another explosion, produced an hour's delay, which enabled the fugitive foe to escape.

The town, containing public property of great value, was captured. Some excesses, by the American soldiery, were at first committed. To put a stop to this, General Dearborn, ordered Colonel Ripley and his regiment, as a town guard, to protect private property. The Colonel executed the command with the strictest propriety, and under circumstances very honourable to himself—for spoils which by the rules of war were his, he spurned to touch. By some unaccountable neglect, he remained on duty three days and nights without sleep. Incessant duty and fatigue impaired his health. The army after it again disembarked at Niagara was sickly, in consequence of its exposure to rains for a week on board the fleet. Colonel Ripley was present at the capture of Fort George, on the 27th of May; but was not present in the action on Stoney Creek, when Generals Chandler and Winder, were taken by surprise. In order to afford him an opportunity to repair his feeble health, General Dearborn, ordered his regiment, diminished by hard service, to convoy the prisoners to Oswego, and then proceed to Sackett's Harbour. Having accomplished this duty, he was detained at that post several days by severe sickness. His devotion to the military art, induced him to resist every advice at Sackett's Harbour, to withdraw for sometime from the duties of his station. His attachment to *Fame*, induced him to press forward and make every sacrifice to enter the portals of her *Temple*.

Preferring the British mode of drill, he made his regiment perfectly acquainted therewith, prior to their embarkation under General Wilkinson, in the attack against Montreal, the failure of which was owing to the then Secretary of War, and General Hampton.

In descending the St. Lawrence for the attack on Montreal, a severe duty was necessary—every corps of the army was exposed to the attacks of a vigilant foe. The 11th of November, was distinguished by the battle of Williamsburgh, where the lamented and brave Covington fell. Colonel Ripley, with his regiment, commenced the action. His conduct throughout the contest, was marked with peculiar bravery. The troops fought in great confusion, and lasted for three hours. In giving orders, the fence on which he stood, was carried away by a cannon ball. The part of his regiment in action, amounted to 339, of which about 80 were killed or wounded. He went into winter-quarters at French Mills, in consequence of the refusal of General Hampton to unite with General Wilkinson. Here his regiment, at the consolidation of the army, was united with the 11th. His wife, to whom he was married in 1811, repaired to him in camp, against the entreaties of friends, in order to assist him in his feeble state of health. In the midst of winter, the cantonment was ordered to be broken up, and the army ordered to repair to the Niagara frontier. Colonel Ripley was ordered to proceed to Albany to forward on artillery and stores for the ensuing campaign. At this time the consolidated regiments was restored. On the 18th of April, Colonel Ripley was advanced to the rank of Brigadier-General. He took leave of the officers and men of his regiment on this occasion, who manifested for him every token of respect, the officers having presented him an elegant sword as a grateful recollection.

A short time previous to this, General Scott, in the absence of General Brown, took the command of the army at Buffalo. This officer used every

exertion to promote a strict and necessary discipline. Each corps was emulous to excel. General Ripley devoted his time to the instruction of his brigade.

On the arrival of General Brown at Buffalo,* in June, 1813, it was determined to invade the upper province, in order to attack Fort George and recover Fort Niagara, and thence to march round the lake to Kingston. This project General Ripley opposed with all his talents, for he was confident that the army, which consisted of less than 3000 regular troops, was too feeble to accomplish the proposed object. He had already accompanied three invasions of Canada, with an incompetent force. He knew that Fort Erie, directly opposite to Buffalo, must immediately fall; but in respect to the ultimate objects, he saw no prospect of success. Although the invasion brought high honour to the American arms—in gaining which he had a full participation—yet the result justified his opinions. Not one of the grand objects proposed was accomplished.

In making the necessary arrangements, the 9th, 11th and 25th regiments, were assigned to the brigade of General Scott, while General Ripley had the 21st, under Major Grafton, with which were incorporated, during the campaign, one company of the 17th under Capt. Chunn, and one do. of the 12th under Lieut. McDonald. He had also a battalion of the 23d regiment under Major M'Farland, consisting principally of recruits lately received and

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* This arrangement was made by the War-Minister to cover the misconceptions of General Brown, in regard to his orders to attack Kingston, for an explanation of which, see note to General Brown's life, page 209.

imperfect in discipline. The four regiments first mentioned were of New-England, and the last one of New-York.

On the 3d of July, the American army crossed the Niagara river. Gen. Scott with the main body crossed from the boats below Fort Erie, while General Ripley with the 21st in two U. S. schooners passed up the lake and disembarked a mile above the fort, which was immediately invested. It was surrendered the same day without the necessity of firing a gun. The next day the army marched to Chippewa, at which place General Brown arrived with the reserve under Gen. Ripley at 1 o'clock at night. The battle of July 5th covered Gen. Scott and his brigade with merited honour, for in the open field and fair combat he achieved a complete victory over superior numbers. Gen. Ripley had no opportunity to encounter the enemy. The American army was encamped on the south side of Street's creek, distant two miles and an half from the enemy's strong work on the north side of Chippewa Creek. The action was fought on the intermediate plain. For a considerable time after the engagement commenced, Gen. Ripley's brigade remained, drawn up in order of battle, exposed to the fire of the enemy's artillery, the shot from which ranged through his line—although he was very solicitous to advance. At length he was ordered, but at too late a period, to take the 21st regiment and pass to the left of the camp, skirt the woods so as to keep out of view, and fall upon the rear of the enemy's right flank. 'This order,' says General Brown, 'was promptly obeyed, and the greatest exertions were made by the 21st regiment to gain their position and close with the enemy, but in vain.' General Ripley was obliged to ford Street's Creek to the left of the bridge, crossing a

morass almost impassable—when he arrived on the Chippewa, the battle was over. Had this *detour* been suffered to be made as soon as the action commenced, the enemy must have lost many prisoners; and if the retreat across Chippewa draw-bridge to his works could have been cut off, General Riall's whole force would inevitably have been captured. Prudence indeed might forbid the commanding General to send out a party of his reserve on such a duty, at the very beginning of an action, the result of which was doubtful; but the *detour* was ordered before the result of the action could be foreseen. General Brown, says,—‘from General Ripley and his brigade, I have received every assistance that I gave them an opportunity of rendering.’

The American troops gained a splendid victory, but the enemy was yet secure in a position of great strength behind a deep creek, which could not be forded within a distance of forty miles. It was determined to construct a bridge and force a passage. July 8th, General Ripley, was detached on this duty. Crossing the bridge over Street's creek, he opened a road two or three miles through the woods on the left, and reaching the Chippewa one or two miles above the British, planted his heavy train of artillery for the protection of the artificers and even began to construct the bridge without exciting alarm or being molested. But the British soon appeared with several pieces of artillery, and opened a fire of shells and round shot, which was returned so vigourously with grape and canister as to force them to retreat. Hearing this tremendous cannonade of our 18 pounders at a point which he supposed inaccessible to our artillery, General Riall, instead of strengthening the party which he

had detached, immediately abandoned his strong position, and retired precipitately upon Queens-town. The whole American army encamped the same night in the enemy's works, having encountered but little of the resistance, which might have been made to the passage of the Chippewa, and which perhaps could have been made with complete success.

July 9th, the United States' army proceeded to Queenstown. Gen. Riall retired to Fort George, leaving a sufficient garrison encamped at Twelve mile creek, three miles distant from the American camp, making every exertion to call out the militia, and sending down the lake for regular troops. General Ripley, persuaded that this was a favourable moment for a decisive action, strongly urged the necessity of immediately pursuing the enemy. But our troops remained ten days idle at Queenstown, and then attempted to besiege Fort George. In the mean time, General Riall's army recovered from the late panic, and was strengthened by the large numbers of militia, called out *en masse*. Had our troops remained three days longer before Fort George, their safety would have been put to the most imminent hazard, for within that time strong reinforcements arrived from Kingston to the enemy, so that Riall would have been emboldened to seize a strong position in our rear. This position must have been carried by our army in order to effect a retreat; for being destitute of boats, it was impossible to cross the Niagara below the falls. But on the 22d of July our troops fell back to Queenstown Heights, and on the 24th to Chippewa.

About this time General Ripley's brigade was strengthened by the veteran battalion of the 23d regiment, under Major Brooke, from Plattsburgh.

and Colonel Miller, who was promoted to the 21st, arrived and took command of that regiment.

The memorable battle of Niagara falls, July 25th, covered General Ripley and his brigade with military glory; which, though not so durable as the thunder of the Cataract, will yet be as permanent as the memory of the action and as the honours which are rewarded to the brave.

The British having received strong reinforcements from Kingston, were put in motion in pursuit of the American army. A column of five hundred British, under Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker, was detached to Lewistown, on the American side of the Niagara to capture the American sick and baggage.—General Riall advanced from his encampment at Twelve-mile Creek by the Lundy-Lane road, which intersects the river road just below the falls;—and General Drummond marched up from Fort George, on the river road direct to Chippewa. General Brown, who, was now meditating the pursuit of General Riall, and a long march to Burlington Heights, did not apprehend that the enemy was near him, and in a capacity to fight him. To recal Colonel Tucker from the American side of the river and to prevent his marching towards Buffalo, General Brown determined to make a movement towards Queenstown, seven miles below the falls.

General Scott, who was detached with about 1000 men, marched in the afternoon; but when he reached the junction of the Lundy-Lane road with the road down the river, he found General Riall, who had just arrived from the Twelve mile Creek, occupying a strong position. The action immediately commenced, at the distance of about three miles from the American army. As soon as

the firing was heard, General Ripley formed his brigade, and by order of General Brown advanced to the support of General Scott. His brigade that morning reported 730 men fit for duty; of these a hundred or more were on guard, or out of camp when he was ordered to march. He proceeded instantly and with his uncommon rapidity, his men actually running a part of the way, and arrived on the ground between sunset and dark. At this time General Scott's brigade having suffered extremely by the tremendous fire of the enemy's artillery of nine pieces planted on a height in the centre of their line, was covered in the woods. General Ripley, as is stated by General Brown, was ordered to disengage and relieve General Scott, by forming a new line; but the precise order was, that he should form on the right of General Scott; and this was the only order which he received, except the order at the close of the action to retire from the field. His aid, Lieutenant M'Donald, bringing intelligence that the right of General Scott would bring him in the woods out of the fight, he resolved to advance directly towards the enemy. As he advanced, the fire of the battery was directed at his brigade. Two shrapnell shells only, striking the 23d regiment, killed and wounded twenty-four men. To remain exposed to this dreadful fire, was impossible, for his brigade also would soon be cut in pieces. There was no alternative but either to carry the battery, or abandon the field. Having made his decision, General Ripley put his brigade in motion to execute the desperate enterprise. Regardless of the enemy's fire, he marched down the road until he arrived within a short distance in front of the height. Here the smoke and darkness favoured him, and being in a

hollow, the shot passed over his head. In order to execute his intentions he formed in line his gallant 21st regiment, in which as well as in Colonel Miller, he had perfect confidence, directly fronting the battery. He determined to lead himself the 23d regiment, which consisted partly of recruits, and required his presence, and attack the enemy's left flank to divert their attention from the 21st.

Having made his arrangements, he marched off the 23d regiment a little to the right, then giving it a direction towards the battery, led his troops to the attack, being himself on horseback. Receiving the fire of the enemy, the regiment faltered, but he immediately rallied it and renewed the action. Colonel Miller made the assault in front with determined bravery ; and the line of infantry, posted for the support of the artillery, being dispersed by the attack on the flank, the battery was carried at the first charge. Confident that the utmost efforts would be directed to the recovery of this position and of the artillery, General Ripley, immediately sent his aid to General Brown, to apprise him of what had been done, and to request him to remove and secure the cannon, but the request was disregarded. Advancing his line some distance in front of the battery, the 23d regiment, with Towson's artillery, was formed on the right of the 21st. A part of the 1st regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas, was stationed on the left, and on the extreme left the brave General Porter with his volunteers. Before the close of the battle, the 25th regiment also, under Major Jessup, was directed to be brought up, and was formed on the right of the whole. In this order the attack was awaited. General Ripley directed the front rank to kneel, and not a gun

should be fired, until the enemy had delivered his fire—then, that deliberate aim should be taken. As the British advanced to the attack, they received such a deadly fire, as to be driven again down the hill. These charges were repeated five or six times with the same result. At this period General Scott, eager to strike a decisive blow, threw himself before General Ripley's line without apprising him of the movement, attacked the enemy, but was wounded and repulsed. Being between two fires, it is supposed, that in consequence of the darkness and confusion, he suffered from both. Obstinate and indignant at the loss of the battery, and at the result of every attempt to recover it, the British forces advanced with heroic determination. General Ripley's brigade, and other troops under his command, were formed as before. Notwithstanding a most destructive fire, the enemy pressed on and engaged with the point of the bayonet. Overcome by numbers, our troops on the right and left gave way; Towson was obliged to spike and abandon his pieces, and total discomfiture seemed unavoidable. But a part of the central brigade, animated by the gallantry of their commander, remained firm; the flanks were rallied by his exertions, and the exertions of the brave officers, and the enemy was again forced down the hill. This was the termination of the conflict, for at this period, after the enemy had been repulsed in the last attack, General Ripley received an order from General Brown to collect his wounded, and retire immediately to camp. Upon going to his rear, and finding that the cannon had not been removed, and, 'the trophies of victory had not been accomplished' according to his request, he ordered a detachment of Porter's volunteers to drag them off the ground;

but the want of ropes rendered it necessary to leave them behind. Besides, the men after fighting five or six hours, were exhausted by fatigue, and incapable of exertion. Nor was it safe to linger in the rear, for the enemy immediately pressed up the hill, and actually took several prisoners by the side of the artillery. As General Ripley marched from the field of battle, but two platoons of General Scott's brigade under Major Levenworth, could be collected; and of the whole army, it was estimated by several officers, that no more than 500 men returned with him to camp, the rest having been dispersed.

Such was the heroic enterprise, which was projected, ordered and executed by General Ripley, who was on horseback, and frequently in front during the whole engagement. Two musket balls pierced his hat, another struck a button of his coat, and another wounded his horse. The principal officer belonging to his brigade, that fell, was the brave Major M'Farland of the 23d. Of six Generals present, four were severely, and one slightly wounded. General Ripley alone, although exposed to every danger, was unhurt. In this action, there was a greater loss of men in killed and wounded, than occurred in any battle during the war of the revolution—the British acknowledging a loss of 878; and our loss but 743. The last charge, about the hour of midnight, was a fearful and tremendous conflict.

After the return to camp, General Brown, who states that he had assigned the command to General Ripley, yet *ordered* him, as the day dawned, "to put himself on the field of battle, and meet the enemy if he appeared." He was ordered to take his own brigade and Porter's volunteers. He marched accordingly; but after crossing the Chip-

pewa, was ordered to furnish refreshments to the men. At this time, and not before, the 1st of General Scott's brigade, was added to his command. Coming in sight of the enemy, and finding that they occupied the battle ground, retaining their cannon, he halted his troops, determined not to risk a general action with an enemy 'superior in numbers and position.' The wisdom of abandoning the battery in the night, in order to take it again in the morning, was to him inexplicable. If he was beaten, he knew that he had no place of retreat, and that the whole army would be lost; whereas, if the enemy, by a miracle, should again be dislodged and beaten, they would retire in safety to Fort George. He therefore determined to exercise that prudence which indeed is not always reputable, but which is essential to the character of a good General, and frequently necessary to the safety of an army. General Porter concurring with him in opinion respecting the impolicy of the proposed attack, he now resolved to be *actual*, and not merely *nominal*, commander of the army. For the sake of harmony, however, he first made a representation to General Brown, who at length ordered the troops to return to camp, and soon crossed over himself to the American side of the river.

Our army, now left in the unquestioned command of General Ripley, was in a critical situation, for the whole effective strength, regulars and volunteers, did not exceed 2000 men. Sending off the sick and wounded, General Ripley burnt the bridge over the Chippewa, and commenced his retreat in good order upon Erie, destroying every bridge as he passed it, to impede the advance of the enemy. He encamped for the night opposite to Black Rock. July 27th, he took up

a position opposite Buffalo ; his right resting on Fort Erie, and his line extending about 800 yards to Snake Hill on the left. Here he determined to fortify, designating himself the line of defence. Majors M'Ree and Wood were the engineers.—The old Fort Erie which was extremely feeble, was strengthened, and a strong work, called Fort Williams or Towson's battery, was constructed on Snake Hill. These two principal works were connected by a line of intrenchments and traverses, which extended also on the right from Fort Erie to Niagara river. On the left from Snake Hill to the lake, there was an abbatis. Thus a triangular space was enclosed. The whole army laboured on the lines through the day, and some of the more athletic, in the night. During the whole night, one third of the officers and men were kept up to the works, attended by General Ripley or some one of his family, ready to resist a sudden attack. By such great exertions a respectable defence was in a few days constructed. It was four or five days before General Drummond, with a much superior force, encamped opposite Black Rock, having unaccountably lost an opportunity, which could not be retrieved. To his surprise he found our troops strongly fortified.

General Gaines, who arrived from Sackett's Harbour on the 4th or 5th of August, being superior in rank, took the command at Fort Erie ; but the system of vigilance and defence, which had been instituted, was continued. General Ripley resumed the command of his brigade, which was stationed on the left flank.

The camp at Fort Erie was attacked by the British on the 16th of August. They were repulsed. On this occasion the dispositions of Gene-

ral Ripley were so judiciously made, that he received no orders from the Commanding officer General Gaines. The particulars of this affair are distinctly given in consequence of the unwarrantable report of General Brown of September 1st, censuring him "for not meeting and beating the enemy on the 26th of July." Apprehensive of the designs of the British, General Ripley ordered up his whole brigade to the works, and apprized (by his aid) General Gaines of the intentions of the British, who were advancing 1500 strong, on the left by the point Abino road, secretly, with no flints in their guns, relying on the bayonets for success. Lieutenant Belknap, of the 23d, who commanded the picket guard 200 yards in advance, first discovered the enemy, gave them his fire and retired in good order. His exertions to save his men had nearly cost him his life, as he was so hard pushed that he was bayoneted when entering the sally post, but recovered. The attack was so much resisted by a destructive fire from Towson's battery and the 21st regiment of Infantry, under Major Wood, who commanded in the absence of Colonel Miller, then on business at Buffalo, that they were compelled to retreat. The enemy renewed the attack and were again repulsed. Two hundred of the British waded into the lake in order to pass the American abatis and gain possession of their works. These were repulsed by a destructive fire of two companies of reserve under Captain Marston, ordered down to the water's edge by General Ripley. The British were repulsed on his flank, with the loss of 147 prisoners; and General Ripley detached five companies to aid the American right. The loss of the British was, by their own report, 905, while that of the Americans

amounted only to 84. General Gaines did not judge it prudent to make a sortie. General Gaines was wounded in his quarters by a shell on the 28th of August, and General Ripley was continued by General Brown, in command, during the siege, which lasted for six weeks. He was frequently exposed to danger from the numerous shells which the enemy threw into the fort, during its investment. The report of General Brown, induced General Ripley to demand a court of inquiry—Fearful of its result, General Brown refused the equitable request. In order to wipe away the stigma, ungenerously attempted to be cast on his reputation, General Ripley applied to the Secretary at War, for redress, and the Secretary promised that a court of inquiry should be held as soon as the officers requisite for holding such a court, could be spared from the service. In executing a sortie, on the 17th of September, General Ripley commanded the reserve, which he early brought up to support the advance. After the British batteries were carried, General Brown committed the whole to General Ripley's command, with orders to act as circumstances might require. The General attempted an attack on the enemy's camp, and was wounded in the advance by a musket ball, and carried, apparently dead, to Fort Erie. The attempt was successful—the cannon of two or three of their batteries were spiked, and the Americans returned to their quarters, the loss of both parties being nearly equal. At the close of the campaign, Fort Erie was abandoned, and the American army crossed over to Buffalo. Ripley's wound was very dangerous, and his sufferings were excruciating. He travelled by slow stages, and arrived at Albany, in February, 1815, and

finally recovered. As soon as the service permitted, Generals Dearborn, Bissel, and Major Porter, were appointed a Court of Inquiry, and witnesses summoned, according to General Ripley's request. General Brown used every exertion to prevent the sitting of the court, but General Ripley persisted in his request. However, to save the reputation of General Brown in public opinion, an order from the Secretary at war, by direction of the President of the United States was received in March, dissolving the court, and as a *salvo* for Ripley's wounded feelings, a Major-General's commission by brevet, was awarded him, bearing date the 25th of July, preceding the day on which the battle of Niagara was fought. Peace shortly after was announced, which caused a reduction in the army. The General had not occasion to say entirely, that republics are ungrateful, whatever may have been the disposition of the Cabinet towards him, in awarding to *others* undeserved honours. The Legislature of the State of Georgia passed him a vote of thanks—that of New-York, a vote of thanks and a sword; and the Congress of the United States a vote of thanks and a gold medal, as a recognition of his valuable services. On the reduction of the army, the voice of the public in his favour was such, that he was continued on the peace establishment; although some others who had spent their lives in their country's service, through intrigue and cabal, were thrown into the vale of obscurity and private life.

In his person he is tall, but well formed. His features are strongly marked, and his countenance open—his disposition mild. His versatile talents had gained him celebrity, alike in the forum, the field, and the Cabinet, and should the

harsh clangour of arms, again call him to the field in his country's defence—his past life warrants the belief that he will do his *country much more service*.

MAJOR-GENERAL

WINFIELD SCOTT.

VIRGINIA claims the honour of General Winfield Scott's birth. He was born in Dinwiddie county, near Petersburg, on the 13th June, 1785. His classic pursuits were closed in William and Mary College. Having undergone the probationary studies of the law, he settled in Petersburg, and commenced its practice in 1806, after he had attained his 21st year. However he may have been flattered with the prospects of success is immaterial. After the affair of the Chesapeake in 1807, he applied and received a Captain's commission in the regiment of light-artillery raised by Congress, upon the enlargement of the United States' army, after that event. At Richmond late in the fall of 1808, Captain Scott received the pay of his men for the months of September and October, as appeared by the pay-roll of his company. Early in 1809, he embarked under Colonel Parker, from Norfolk, for New-Orleans. After his arrival at his destination, he complained of the appointment of a Captain Banckhead over him. His General informed him of the proper mode of redress, for which the Captain was very thankful. In the incipency of the summer of the same year, he applied for, and obtained a furlough from General Wilkinson for 60 or 90

days, to return to Virginia, having declared that it was his intention to resign, his only motive for entering the army being the *spur of the occasion*, in consequence of the *Chesapeake* affair.

During this period, he was engaged with a Dr. Claude, of Maryland, a Surgeon in the army, in an affair of a personal nature, and, however great he may have displayed personal courage amid the conflict of armies, he is said not to have manifested that cool intrepidity on this occasion so highly appreciated in the character of a knight-errant, in the days of antient chivalry.

As soon as Colonel Parker had a knowledge of Captain Scott's furlough by report, he applied to General Wilkinson to know its truth. The General verified it. Upon this Colonel Parker remarked to the General, that he hoped Captain Scott would settle with his men for their two month's pay prior to his departure. Captain Scott having departed for Virginia on furlough, his command devolved on Lieutenant John H. T. Estis, to whom his company preferred a formal complaint at *Terre-au-Bœuf*; which, with accompanying documents, was delivered to General Wilkinson, in 1810. The certificate from the War Department, verifying the pay-roll as given in by Captain Scott, is dated June 28, 1810. A number of the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, of the Captain's command, made oath at *Terre-au-Bœuf* the 9th of July, 1809, that at no time had they ever receipted any roll for pay, or received any monies due them from the United States, for their services during the months of September and October, 1808.

On his arrival at the seat of Government, the Captain obtained an extension of furlough, and did

not rejoin his company until the last month of autumn or the first of winter, following.

Dr. Upshaw, a surgeon in the army had a difference with Captain Scott, prior to his departure to the Atlantic States, and a personal interview of parties was prevented by a sick-bed which almost prostrated the Doctor at the threshold of a more direful opponent. However, the Doctor having recovered, after the return of Captain Scott, he, upon a knowledge of the Captain's delinquency, preferred charges against him. A court of inquiry was held, which resulted in the call of a court-martial. The court, after giving him a full hearing, in consequence of ample testimony, found him guilty in a qualified sense and suspended him from command for twelve months. The consequence of this, was *an affair of honour*, between Captain Scott and Dr. Upshaw. On this occasion the Captain is said to have behaved as he did in a similar affair with Dr. Claude.

Although the charges were exhibited against Captain Scott, while General Wilkinson commanded on the New-Orleans station, yet the court was held and the sentence made known while General Hampton was the superior officer.

Captain Scott next appeared on the public stage in the character of Judge-advocate, on the trial of Colonel Cushing, in March, 1812. On this occasion he overacted his part in the persecution of that officer, who had grown grey in service. As Judge-advocate, he prepared an account of that trial and gave it for publication in the *Analectic Magazine*, before it had received the sanction of superior power.

Captain Scott left New Orleans with General Hampton, in 1812, and having arrived at the seat of Government, was appointed a Lieutenant-Co-

lonel of the 2d regiment of artillery, under Colonel Izard, over the heads of men who had been from twelve to fifteen years in service. The confirmation of this nomination in the Senate of the United States met with some opposition, and owed its success to Mr. Giles, a Senator from Virginia.

Early in the autumn, after his elevation, Colonel Scott repaired to the Niagara frontier of the United States with two companies of his regiment, and took station at Black Rock. The first active service in which Colonel Scott was ever engaged with the enemies of his country was a brush with the British in consequence of the grounding of the *Adams* under the guns of the British batteries, after her capture from the enemy by Captain Elliot, of the navy, assisted by Captain Towson of the United States' artillery, on the 9th of October. In the unsuccessful invasion of Canada on the Niagara frontier, under Major-General Van Rensselaer, Lieutenant-Colonel Scott was taken prisoner, with 139 of his regiment, when valiantly contending against a superior force on Queenstown Heights, and was sent as such to Quebec. About a month after he embarked for Boston, on parole, and was regularly exchanged in January, 1813. After his return to active service he joined General Dearborn in the character of Adjutant-General of the Northern army.

Major-General Dearborn, with near 5000 men, now determined on attempting the reduction of the Peninsula on the opposite side of the straits. Of this, Fort George was the bulwark. The necessary arrangements having been completed, at one o'clock in the morning, May 27th, the whole army embarked on Lake Ontario, three miles east from Fort Niagara. It was arranged in six divisions

of boats ; the first contained the advance guard under Colonel Scott. This was followed by Col. Porter with the field train, the brigades of Boyd, Winder, and Chandler, and a reserve under Col. Macomb.

Commodore Chauncey, with his squadron, favoured the descent, by the fire of his small schooners ; and Captain Perry, then serving under Commodore Chauncey, volunteered to conduct the divisions. In the discharge of this duty, he was present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musketry, and rendered very essential services to the advance guard, which he accompanied nearly to its point of attack.

At nine in the morning, Colonel Scott effected his landing, in good order, under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery, about a mile and a quarter from the village of Newark, and the same distance west of the mouth of the Niagara. He formed his line on the beach of the lake, covered by a bank of twelve or fifteen feet in height, which served as a parapet against the enemy's fire.— This bank was to be scaled against the bayonets of the enemy, who had now drawn up his forces 1500 strong, immediately on its brow. They were soon driven from their ground by a brisk and vigorous charge, but rallied, and took a second position behind a ravine, at a little distance. A short action ensued, which ended in the total rout of the enemy at every point. During the last five minutes, Boyd had landed in the rear of the advance guard, and a part of his brigade participated in the action. Colonel Scott pursued the rout as far as the village, where he was joined by the 6th regiment, under Colonel Miller ; from thence the enemy was closely pressed at a distance of five miles up the river, until Scott was recalled

from the pursuit by order of General Lewis. As the American troops approached towards Fort George, it was perceived that the garrison were in the act of abandoning the work. Two companies were instantly detached from the head of the pursuing column, to prevent this movement, and some prisoners were made. They were at the distance of about eighty paces from the fort, when one of its magazines blew up with a dreadful explosion. The front gate was instantly forced by the Americans ; Scott was the first to enter, and took with his own hands the British flag yet waving over the works. At the same time Captains Hindsman and Stockton snatched away the matches which had been applied by the retreating garrison to three other magazines.

In these several affairs, the total loss of the American army, in killed and wounded, amounted to 120, of which 89 were of Colonel Scott's command ; 107 of the enemy were killed at the point of ascent from the bank, and the whole number of prisoners was 264.

On being promoted to a regiment, Colonel Scott resigned the office of Adjutant-General, in the month of July, 1813.

It had been determined, as all our readers well remember, to collect a large force at Sackett's Harbour, with a view to an enterprise against Kingston or Montreal, towards the close of the campaign. The force under General Wilkinson accordingly embarked at Fort George on the 2d of October, and proceeded down the lake. Colonel Scott was left in command of a garrison of some seven or eight hundred men, regulars and militia, for the defence of Fort George. The British army, in the meanwhile, remained inactive in the position which it had held for some time,

at the distance of four miles from the fort, until October 9th, when General De Rottenburg suddenly broke up his encampment, and retreated to Burlington Heights, a distance of 53 miles, abandoning the whole Niagara frontier. During the seven days in which he was kept in suspense by the threatening aspect of De Rottenburg, Colonel Scott made the greatest exertions to strengthen his defences. The enemy, however, did not think it prudent to attack him.

Colonel Scott was accordingly relieved in the command of Fort George, by Brigadier-General M'Clure of the New-York militia, and marched his garrison towards Sackett's Harbour, to join the expedition under General Wilkinson, which was then preparing to descend the St. Lawrence. After a forced march of nineteen days, through rain and mud, during the whole of which time the sun was not visible for twelve hours, he learned upon his arrival in the neighbourhood of Sackett's Harbour, that the expedition had already taken its departure. He therefore left his column, and, by a forced effort of two days and one night, came up with the army, and joined it just above Ogdensburgh and Prescott. He was assigned to the command of a battalion in the *corps d'elite* under Colonel Macomb. In the subsequent descent of the St. Lawrence, he commanded the van of the army.

The termination of this campaign, was the result of intrigue, and General Wilkinson, the Commander, became its victim, at the head of which were General Armstrong the Secretary at War, and Brigadier-General Hampton, who avoided the punishment of disobedience of orders by a timely resignation.

Colonel Scott spent a great part of the following winter at Albany. Early in March, 1814, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, and joined Major-General Brown there, on his route to the Niagara frontier, early in April. Soon after, General Brown was recalled to Sackett's Harbour, and the command, in consequence, devolved on Brigadier-General Scott, who immediately assembled the army, and established a camp of instruction at Buffalo. All the officers were drilled by the Commanding General in person ; these then instructed the rank and file ; companies were then formed and subjected to the same process ; next battalions, which were also instructed by General Scott in person, and finally the troops were carried through the evolutions of the brigade and the line with the same strict attention to science and method. The army became well organized, and the strictest routine and discipline were established throughout the whole.

In June, Major-General Brown returned to Buffalo with reinforcements, and on the 3d of July the campaign opened. The Niagara was passed, and Fort Erie taken on the same day : the fort was taken possession of by a battalion of the first of Scott's brigade, under Major Jessup. Thence the American army moved towards Chippewa, the first brigade being ten hours in advance, and took a position a mile and a half above Chippewa, having a small stream immediately in front, beyond which lay an extensive plain ; its right rested on the Niagara, and left upon a wood. From this the British, Indians and militia annoyed the pickets, until Brigadier-General Porter, with his command of militia, volunteers, and friendly Indians drove them back upon Chippewa, where

he met the whole British column, in order of battle, advancing to the attack. General Porter's light troops soon gave way, in spite of his personal gallantry. The cloud of dust which arose, and the heavy firing apprised General Brown of the approach of the main body of the British. It was now five o'clock in the afternoon, when Scott was advancing with his brigade to drill on the very ground on which the action had been fought. On the march, he met General Brown, who passed on to put the reserve in motion. When Scott's brigade arrived at the bridge over the stream, two hundred paces in front of the camp, the enemy was discovered already in order of battle on the plain, supported by a heavy battery, within point-blank shot of the bridge. Under a heavy fire of artillèry General Scott passed the bridge with some loss, and formed his line; the first and second battalions, under Majors Leavenworth and M'Neal, formed to the front, parallel to the enemy, and opposite to his left and centre: the 3d battalion, under Major Jessup, broke off to the left, and advanced to the front in column to attack the enemy's right wing, which rested on a wood. Towson's battery took a position on the right of our army, resting on the river. General Scott soon perceived, that although there were no intervals in the British line, yet their right wing far outflanked his left. This caused the movement of Major Jessup; and to remedy the defect of inferior numbers, the interval was greatly enlarged between the other two battalions. All these movements were made under the galling fire of the enemy's musketry and artillery. The action then became general: Major Jessup, two hundred yards in front, engaged and broke off the enemy's right wing in the wood from his gen-

eral line, which continued to advance in the plain. Brigadier-General Scott, who had advanced in line from his original position to meet the enemy, now halted for a moment. The success in the wood gave the enemy's line on the plain, which continued to advance, a new flank, and the enlarged interval between the battalions of Leavenworth and M'Neil, enabled the General to throw the battalion of the latter forward on its right, so as to stand obliquely to the enemy's charge, and flanking him on the right. This movement, combined with the fire of Leavenworth's battalion and that of Towson's battery, decided the action on the plain in favour of inferior numbers ; whilst, at the same time, the British right in the wood was completely routed by Major Jessup. At the distance of thirty paces, the whole line broke and retreated in confusion to his works behind the Chippewa.

This action was fought independent of the reserve under General Ripley, which made a *detour* by order of General Brown to the left, with a view of gaining the rear of the enemy, under cover of the wood. But the fate of the day was decided some time before the reserve could gain its position. Had the commanding General suffered the *detour* to have been made in due season, the victory would have been more complete. The relative force of the two armies actually engaged, was thus : Major-General Riall had in his front line 1,700 men, all regular troops, supported by the 8th regiment, 450 strong. The 100th regiment, which was on the left of the British line, commanded by the Marquis of Tweedale, late aid-de-camp to Lord Wellington, brought into action 700 men. He paraded the next day but 264. The other regiments engaged suffered proportionably.

General Porter's command was not engaged after their retreat ; the whole action was subsequently sustained by Scott's brigade ; which including Towson's artillery, consisted of but 1,300 men fit for duty ; 150 were on the different guards and pickets, and not in the action : the American force, actually engaged, did not exceed 1,200 men.

Two days after the action the army passed the Chippewa ; it lay at Queenstown for two weeks, part of the time within gun shot of the forts at the mouth of the Niagara, then recrossed the Chippewa, and encamped at its mouth on the 24th July.

On the 25th of July, Major Gen. Brown, unapprized of the arrival of Lieut. Gen. Drummond's army from Kingston and Prescott, and his junction with Riall, received false information, (at the time accredited,) that Gen. Riall had detached a large body of troops across the Niagara to Lewistown, as was supposed, to seize or intercept the baggage and stores which were at Schlosser, and on the road thither. Gen. Brown thought to divert the enemy from his object by recalling his attention to his own posts at the mouth of the Niagara. Brig. Gen. Scott consequently was ordered to march rapidly upon Queenstown, and the order was promptly executed. The whole force under his immediate command consisted of four small battalions under Col. Brady, and Majors Jessup, Leavenworth, and M'Neil, with Towson's company of artillery, in all 920 men ; the pickets and guards of the brigade being left behind, were not included. To these were added Harris's troop of light dragoons and some mounted volunteers, making an aggregate of 1050 men. With this force Brig. Gen. Scott marched from the camp ; the enemy were soon discovered, and reported to

Major-Gen. Brown. At nearly three miles from the camp, and just in the vicinity of the cataract of Niagara, Scott learned that the enemy was in some force directly in front, a narrow piece of woodland alone intercepting them from his view. This proved to be the advance corps of Drummond's army, then in march to attack the American army in its position at Chippewa. On a closer reconnoitre, this force was found to be drawn up on a ridge, running out at right angles from the Niagara. Notwithstanding their superiority of number, Gen. Scott resolved on the attack. Waiting only to communicate this information to the commanding General, he advanced upon them, and by the time the message was delivered, the action had been commenced, and had already become close and general some time before the remainder of the division crossed the Chippewa.

The enemy had already 1500 men in line; the remainder of Drummond's army were on their march from Fort George, and arrived successively at intervals of fifteen and twenty minutes. Of the line in view, the left rested on the road, between which and the river was a space of 200 paces in breadth, covered by woods. Major Jessup, sustained by Col. Brady, was ordered to penetrate this wood, and turn the enemy's left wing. The action now opened in front, on the part of Scott's artillery and his two remaining battalions. The dragoons were not engaged on either side. The enemy, finding that he was outflanked on his right, threw forward two battalions to take our army on the left. These were promptly beaten out of the field; at the same moment the action was desperately contested in front by Towson and Colonel Brady, whilst Jessup completely succeeded in turning the enemy's left, taking prisoner Major-Gen-

eral Riall* and several other officers on the rear, and then charged back through the enemy's line, cutting off a portion of that wing, and showing himself again to his own army in a blaze of fire. The action, which had commenced half an hour before sunset, had now lasted until about half after eight. The enemy's right wing had been beaten out of the field, his left turned and cut off; his centre alone remained firm, resting on a height considerably above the general elevation of the ridge, and supported by nine pieces of artillery. But fresh battalions were joining the enemy every instant from below. Such was the state of the action when Major-General Brown arrived with the reserve, after the battle had thus raged for an hour and forty minutes. The remainder of the action, after General Brown had assumed the command, cannot be better related than in his own words. "Apprehending," says he, "that Scott's brigade was much exhausted, and knowing that it had suffered severely, I determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage it and hold its brigade in reserve. Orders were accordingly given to General Ripley. The British artillery occupied a hill, advantageously, which was the key to the whole position. It was supported by a line of infantry. To secure the victory, it was necessary to carry the artillery, and sieze the height. The duty was assigned to Colonel Miller, who advanced steadily to his object, and carried the height and the cannon. Gen. Ripley brought up the 23d to his support, and the enemy disappeared from before them. The enemy, rallying his forces, and as is believed, having

* Captain Ketchum of the 25th, was the officer who took General Riall personally.

received reinforcements, now attempted to drive us from our position, and regain his artillery. Our line was unshaken, and the enemy repulsed. Two other attempts, having the same object, had the same issue. General Scott was again engaged in repelling the former of those; and the last I saw of him on the field of battle, he was near the head of his column, and giving to its march a direction that would have placed him on his enemy's right. Having been for some time wounded, and being a good deal exhausted by loss of blood, it became my wish to devolve the command on General Scott, and retire from the field: but on enquiring, I learned that he was disabled by wounds; I therefore kept my post, and had the satisfaction to see the enemy's last effort repulsed."

General Scott was finally disabled by a wound from a musket ball through his right shoulder, which he received about half past ten, just before the final close of the action. He had been wounded two hours before, in the left side, had lost two horses, killed under him, and his aid, Lieutenant Worth, and his Brigade-Major, Smith, had both been wounded by his side. The total loss of his brigade was 490 in killed and wounded, out of 920, including more than 30 officers.

The conduct of General Scott in this battle, is said to have displayed more of bravery than of prudence.—Time alone can develop the truth of the assertion.

On the day in which this action took place, Brigadier-General Scott was appointed, by the President, a Major-General by brevet. His wounds were for some time exceedingly painful and dangerous, and obliged him to retire for a time from active service. As soon as he was convalescent, he was appointed to the command of

the tenth military district, where he was stationed. Beside his military rank, he has received many testimonials of respect: among which are a vote of thanks, and a medal, from Congress; a sword presented by the citizens of his native place, Petersburg; a sword and a vote of thanks from the Legislature of Virginia; and his name has been given to a new county of that state. In addition to these civil honours, he received a literary one from Princeton College, which was conferred in a very flattering manner.

He repaired to Baltimore and assumed his command a short time after the enemy had retreated from before that city. He was received with much distinction. General Smith, of the Maryland Militia, the hero of Mud Fort, in the revolutionary war, who commanded during the attack on that place, immediately resigned. It was thought by the inhabitants, that General Scott had not treated him, on his arrival, with that respect that delicacy and politeness required—At least such was the reason assigned at the time, for General Smith's resignation. After peace was restored, on the reduction of the army, General Scott was retained in the service, over the heads of men who had grown grey in service. Having obtained a furlough, he visited England and France, and on his return he was appointed to command, with his head-quarters at Philadelphia, and afterwards transferred to New-York, where he at present remains. He married a lady of Virginia, of one of the first families of his native state. The General is rising six feet in height, and tall and slender in his person.

He is accused of proneness to intrigue, and is said to have derived much of his fame and military consequence from that circumstance. Whether

he merits the exalted rank he now holds, or the charge alleged against him by his adversaries, time only can determine. His present biographer is averse to every species of flattery, and can only speak of him from the materials laid before the public eye, as he is not intimately acquainted with his private history.

CAPTAIN

ISAAC HULL

Was born at Derby, in the state of Connecticut, about ten miles from New-Haven. Having received a school education, he adopted the profession of a seaman, in which he afterwards became master of a vessel. He was in this situation at the first establishment of the navy, and, at that time, received the appointment of a lieutenant. He always ranked high as an excellent seaman, an attentive and vigilant officer. It is only since the declaration of the war with Great Britain, that Captain Hull has become an object of public attention by two brilliant exploits; the one exhibiting an instance of admirable skill as a seaman, and the other, of his gallantry as an officer.

Leaving Chesapeake Bay on the 12th of July, 1812, in the Constitution, of forty-four guns, he, on the 17th fell close in with a British squadron, consisting of one ship of the line, four frigates, a brig and a schooner, the nearest frigate within gun shot. It was a dead calm, and the only headway to be made was by towing. The enemy attached all his boats to two frigates, and by so doing, gained on the Constitution, so as to bring some

of his bow guns to bear on her. In this situation they continued all day, the Constitution occasionally firing her stern chasers; and it was not until the next morning that a light breeze enabled her to escape from an enemy so much superiour in force, as to render a contest desperate. The whole chase lasted sixty hours, and during all that time the gallant crew remained at their stations without a murmur. Nothing can evince a more decided superiority of activity and skill on the part of the Americans, than this extraordinary escape from two frigates towed by the boats of a squadron of seven vessels. It is related on good authority, that the enemy himself expressed his admiration of the skill with which Captain Hull manœuvred his vessel and effected his escape.

The public notice taken of this affair, and the praises bestowed on Captain Hull, induced him, on arriving at Boston, to insert the following card in the books of the Exchange Coffee-House.

“Captain Hull finding that his friends in Boston are correctly informed of his situation when chased by the British squadron off New-York, and that they are good enough to give him more credit for having escaped it than he ought to claim, takes this opportunity of requesting them to transfer their good wishes to Lieutenant Morris and the other brave officers, and the crew under his command, for the very great exertions and prompt attention to his orders, while the enemy were in chase. Captain Hull has great pleasure in saying, that notwithstanding the length of the chase, and the officers and crew being deprived of sleep, and allowed but little refreshment during the time, not a murmur was heard to escape them.”

On the nineteenth of August, 1812, Captain Hull, with the same vessel, the same officers, and

the same crew, fell in with a large frigate, which struck to him after a close action of thirty minutes. She proved to be his Majesty's ship the *Guerriere*, rated at thirty-eight guns, and carrying fifty; commanded by Captain J. R. Dacres, who some time before had politely endorsed on the register of a merchant ship, an invitation to Captain Hull to give him a meeting of this kind. We give the particulars of the action in his own words.

*United States' frigate Constitution, off
Boston Light, August 30, 1812.*

SIR—I have the honour to inform you, that on the 19th instant, at two P. M. being in latitude 41, 42, and longitude 55, 48, with the *Constitution* under my command, a sail was discovered from the mast-head, bearing E. by S. or E. S. E. but at such a distance we could not tell what she was. All sail was instantly made in chase, and soon found we came up with her. At three P. M. could plainly see that she was a ship on the starboard tack, under easy sail, close on a wind; at half past three P. M. made her out to be a frigate; continued the chase until we were within about three miles, when I ordered the light sails to be taken in, the courses hauled up, and the ship cleared for action. At this time the chase had backed his main-top-sail, waiting for us to come down — As soon as the *Constitution* was ready for action, I bore down with an intention to bring him to close action immediately, but on our coming within gun shot, she gave us a broadside, and filled away, and wore, giving us a broadside on the other tack, but without effect; her shot falling short. She continued wearing and manœuvring for about three quarters of an hour, to get a raking position, but finding she could not, she bore up, and run

under her top-sails and jib, with the wind on the quarter. I immediately made sail, to bring the ship up with her, and five minutes before six P.M. being along side within half pistol shot, we commenced a heavy fire from all our guns, double shotted with round and grape, and so well directed were they, and so warmly kept up, that in fifteen minutes his mizen-mast went by the board, and his main yard in the slings, and the hull, rigging and sails very much torn to pieces. The fire was kept up with equal warmth for fifteen minutes longer, when his main-mast and fore-mast went, taking with them every spar, excepting the bowsprit. On seeing this we ceased firing, so that in thirty minutes after we got fairly alongside the enemy, she surrendered, and had not a spar standing, and her hull below and above water so shattered, that a few more broadsides must have carried her down.

After informing you that so fine a ship as the *Guerriere*, commanded by an able and experienced officer, had been totally dismasted, and otherwise cut to pieces so as to make her not worth towing into port, in the short space of thirty minutes, you can have no doubt of the gallantry and good conduct of the officers and ship's company I have the honour to command. It only remains with me to assure you, that they all fought with great bravery; and it gives me great pleasure to say, that from the smallest boy in the ship, to the oldest seaman, not a look of fear was seen. They all went into action, giving three cheers, and requesting to be laid close alongside the enemy.

Enclosed I have the honour to send you a list of killed and wounded on board the *Constitution*, and a report of the damages she has sustained;

also a list of the killed and wounded on board the enemy, with his quarter bill, &c.

I have the honour to be,
with very great respect,
Sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC HULL.

The Honourable Paul Hamilton, Esq.

Return of killed and wounded on board the United States' frigate Constitution, Isaac Hull, Esq. Captain, in the action with his Majesty's ship Guerriere, James R. Dacres, Esq. Captain, on the 20th day of August, 1812.

Killed.

William S. Bush, first lieutenant of marines.— Jacob Sage, Robert Brice, John Brown, James Read, Caleb Smith, James Ashford, seaman.

Wounded.

Charles Morris, first lieutenant, dangerously.— John C. Aylwin, master, slightly. Richard Dunn, seaman, dangerously. George Reynolds, Daniel Lewis, Owen Taylor, ordinary seaman, dangerously. Francis Mullen, marine, slightly.

Recapitulation.

Killed.—One lieutenant of marines and six seamen—Total killed, 7.

Wounded.—Two officers, four seamen, and one marine—Total wounded, 7.

Total killed and wounded, 14.

The loss on board the Guerriere is stated to be 15 killed, 62 wounded, and 24 missing.

Since the affair of the Guerriere, Captain Hull was employed in superintending the building of a seventy-four at Portsmouth, N. H. Captain Hull married a lady of Connecticut. He is an able officer, a good disciplinarian, and an honour to the American service, in which he still continues.

COMMODORE

JOHN RODGERS

WAS born in Harford county, Maryland, about the year 1765, of which his father was a respectable citizen. He was bred to the sea, and even in the Revolutionary war, although a youth, he rose before its termination, to a respectable rank in the American Navy. From the peace of 1783 to the establishment of the Navy, he was a commander of various vessels in the merchant service. After the determination of the United States' government to create a Naval establishment, he was among the first appointed to command.

In August, 1803, he commanded the frigates New-York and John Adams, (being the senior Captain) with the title of Commodore, and assisted Commodore Preble in inducing the Emperor of Morocco, whose conduct had assumed a hostile attitude towards the United States, to restore the American vessels and other property then captured or detained, and to compel him to renew the former treaty which existed between the two governments. He then returned, according to orders, with his command, to the United States. During the calm of years which succeeded the Barbary warfare, nothing occurred to bring the Commodore on the public stage until the affair of the Little Belt. Pursuant to his instructions, Commodore Rogers, commanding the United States' frigate President, sailed on the 10th of May, 1811, from Annapolis for New-York. About midday on the 16th, within six leagues from land, he descried a sail to the eastward, standing towards him. The Commodore supposed her to be the British frigate Guerriere, which it was supposed, had

a few days before, impressed a boy from on board an American brig, off Sandy Hook. He resolved to speak her and induce, if possible, her commander to restore the lad to his nation and to his freedom. Although Captain Rogers saw at half past three that the President was gaining on the other, it was not until it was too dark when the President came up with her, to discover to what nation she belonged, as she displayed no colours. The conduct of the commander of the strange vessel led to a rencontre, (he having refused to answer, when hailed, and fired upon the President) in which he lost 9 men killed and 22 wounded: laying by her all night to afford assistance, the Commodore at day break sent on board to learn what vessel she was; who was her commander, and at the same time to offer any assistance that might be wanted. On the return of his officer, the Commodore learnt that she was the British sloop of war Little Belt, Bingham, commander, who declined receiving any assistance. The account rendered to the British government by the commander of the Little Belt, was in a strain of boasting and censure; but the modest narration of Commodore Rogers, supported by his officers and men, obtained belief. None was killed on board of the President, and one boy only slightly wounded. The conduct of Rogers was approved by the American government, and the British cabinet had approbated, on former occasions, conduct of her own officers too infamous to take any notice of this affair. Affairs, however, between the United States and Great Britain were drawing to a crisis. The British aggressions on the neutral rights of the United States were not redressed—remonstrance was unavailing. The violation of the municipal laws of the American government was encouraged

by Great Britain, who publicly contemned every right which appertained to the United States as a neutral nation. She had carried on against them for some years, a *war in disguise*, and the Congress of the United States, as a dernier resort, was obliged on the 18th of June, 1812, to authorize a defensive warfare. This was formally done, and on the 21st of the same month the frigates President, (Commodore Rogers) Congress, and brigs Hornet and Argus, sailed from New-York in quest of a British fleet of merchantmen, which had sailed from Jamaica for England the preceding month. The Commodore learnt that this fleet, under convoy, had passed four days before, and the American squadron crowded all sail for the pursuit. Commodore Rogers, however, the next day was induced to alter his course in consequence of the appearance of the British frigate Belvidere, to which he gave chase. The British Captain outsailed the Commodore by starting his water-casks, cutting away his anchors, and throwing overboard whatever he could spare, and escaped. In the pursuit, one of the President's chase guns burst, and killed and wounded 16 of her men. Among the wounded was the Commodore himself, whose leg was fractured. In the firing from the President, the Belvidere had one man killed and six wounded from the first shot. The Commodore gave up the chase and put into Boston, from whence he again put to sea on the 8th of October, in the President, accompanied by the frigates United States and Congress, and brig Argus. On the 13th the frigate United States and brig Argus parted from the President and Congress in a gale.

On the 15th, the President and Congress captured the British Packet Swallow, having on board specie to the amount of \$200,000 and gold

dust supposed to be worth \$100,000. This prize arrived safe into an American port, and the property was deposited in one of the Banks, carried in several wagons, under a naval escort. On the 31st, they captured a South Sea ship, laden with oil. The Galatea British frigate, which convoyed her and another, was chased but escaped by means of a heavy fog. The Nymph frigate was afterwards descried and given chase to, but escaped under cover of night. In this cruise the frigates President and Congress traversed more than 8,000 miles, and no other opportunity offered their commanders to try their prowess than those enumerated. They returned to Boston, much chagrined, in consequence, on the last day of December, 1812.

The Commodore remained on shore until the 23d of April, 1813, when he again put to sea from Boston, in the President frigate, accompanied by the Congress, Captain Smith, and cleared President Roads on the 30th of the same month. In this his third cruise after the declaration of hostilities, he met with no vessel of equal force to contend with. He visited the coast of Bergen, Norway, Shetland Isles, and returned to Newport, Rhode-Island, on the 23d of September.—In this cruise he captured twelve vessels, the crews of which amounted to 271 persons. In his absence from the United States on this occasion, the burning and sacking of Havre-de-Grace, Maryland, took place under the command of the *renowned* Admiral Cockburn who never faced an equal foe. The dwelling of the Commodore and his mother shared the fate of the rest of the inhabitants. The Commodore was plundered of some of his Mediterranean presents, received for his merits in the Barbary warfare. The schooner High Flyer, a

privateer out of Baltimore, a remarkably fast sailer, had been captured and converted into a tender, belonging to the British squadron on the New-England station. This vessel the Commodore had the good fortune to capture by decoy, on the 22d of September, off Rhode-Island, and obtain possession of the private signals of the British navy ; and it is somewhat singular, if report be true, that the sword which the British Lieutenant commanding the High Flyer tendered to the Commodore on surrendering, was the Commodore's own sword, plundered from his house in Havre-de-Grace, during the disgraceful and barbarous expedition of Cockburn, and which had been presented him in Sicily, for friendly and humane services to natives of that Island.

Ever after the chase of the British frigate *Belvidere*, the Commodore never could find a British frigate of equal force with his own, unaccompanied with a seventy-four. Although in three cruises in search of the enemy, no opportunity presented itself to signalize himself in combat, yet from his unwearied exertions he rendered his country signal services, and his reputation stood, and yet stands, deservedly high in public estimation.

At the attack on Baltimore he, with his seamen, commanded Fort Covington, and with Commodore Barney's flotilla-men in the six-gun battery, were the first, during the night bombardment, who descried and repulsed a body of the British 1250 strong, who in 50 boats with muffled oars, under the mantle of darkness, had passed Fort M'Henry with scaling-ladders for landing and attacking it in the rear.

During the siege Commodore Rodgers was indefatigable in rendering all the aid he was capa-

ble of, for which he received public acknowledgements and various testimonials of respect, among which was a splendid service of plate.

On the return of peace, Congress constituted a board of Commissioners of the Navy, to relieve the Secretary of the Navy from a part of his duties by which it was judged the public service would be benefitted, in transferring to this body. The Commodore was appointed one of these and continues in the execution of the duties assigned him.

In his person he is robust, very strong, well built, broad-shouldered, and has every appearance of the weather-beaten seamen. W. Pinckney, late Ambassador of the United States at the Court of Russia, is married to his sister.

LIEUTENANT

AUGUSTUS C. LUDLOW.

THE Biography of a young officer who has not arrived to chief command is generally barren of events which can attract public notice. The limited sphere in which he must necessarily move precludes notoriety, until some signal event brings him before the public.

Lieutenant Ludlow was a native of Orange County, State of New-York, where his relatives reside. His mother united herself in a second marriage, to a Mr. W. Jones, a native of Ireland, who followed the mercantile business. Young Ludlow, after having received his education, adopted the profession of a seamen and very early entered a Midshipman in the United States' service, where, by his good conduct, he secured uni-

versal esteem and rose to the rank of first Lieutenant of the United States' frigate Chesapeake.

The circumstance of the engagement between the British frigate Shannon and the U. S. frigate Chesapeake, the 2d of June, 1813, which ended in the capture of the latter vessel, more particularly belongs to the biography of her commander, Captain Lawrence. Lieutenant Ludlow in the action was mortally wounded in attempting to repel the enemy's boarders, and died a few days afterwards. The Chesapeake having been carried into Halifax, Lieutenant Ludlow, in conjunction with his lamented commander, was buried with every mark of respect and honour due to a brave but unfortunate foe. Their remains were afterwards taken up,* brought to the United States, and interred at New-York, amid the tears of relatives, friends and fellow-citizens, who paid thus their last tribute of affection to the mortal remains of departed worth.

CAPTAIN

JAMES BIDDLE,

Is the son of Charles Biddle, Esq. of Philadelphia, and was born on the 18th of February, 1783. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania. He obtained a Midshipman's warrant in the

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* Mr. Crowninshield, of Salem, obtained a flag for the purpose, and sailed for Halifax—Having obtained the bodies of the deceased gallant officers, he returned to Salem, where every tribute of respect was paid to their remains, which were then delivered over to their friends and conveyed to New-York.

year 1800—was on board of the Philadelphia frigate at the time she was taken by the Tripolitans, and suffered a rigorous confinement of nineteen months.

At the conclusion of the peace with the Bashaw of Tripoli, in which the release of prisoners was stipulated, Mr. Biddle returned to the U. States with Captain Bainbridge. They landed at Norfolk, and travelled thence by land to Philadelphia, where they arrived in the month of September, 1805. From this period, Mr. Biddle, who on his release had been promoted to a lieutenancy, was engaged in various situations until the breaking out of the war with Great Britain. He cruised for some time in a gun-boat on the southern coast in company with the John Adams; was employed in surveying the harbour of Beaufort; from whence he came to Philadelphia, where after residing some time with his family, he obtained a furlough, and made a voyage to China in a merchant ship. On his return, he was employed under Commodore Murray in a flotilla of gun-boats, enforcing the Embargo. No other service than that of the gun-boats was during this period open to our officers, as the Chesapeake was the only frigate in commission.

In the year 1809, however, the equipment of a number of vessels being authorized, and Commodore Bainbridge appointed to the President, Mr. Biddle was assigned as his second Lieutenant.—In consequence of their being no prospect of active service, Captain Bainbridge, in 1810, obtained a furlough, and in consequence relinquished the command of the President. Lieutenant Biddle was then ordered to take charge of the Syren from Philadelphia to Hampton Roads, where he joined the Constitution, Captain Hull. From thence, in

expectation that there would be an affair between a British frigate and the President, he went on board the latter vessel, which was short in her complement of Lieutenants. This expectation was founded on the irritation then subsisting, on account of that disgraceful event which is known by the appellation of the affair of the Chesapeake. The President sailed soon after, but met with no British frigate. This vessel being laid up for the winter at New-London, Mr. Biddle made a voyage to Lisbon, and on his return carried out despatches to our minister at Paris, where he remained nearly four months.

Mr. Biddle returned to Philadelphia, and used various other efforts to get into active service, but though government was aware of his talents, and well disposed to grant his wishes, no opportunity occurred, until the arrival of the Wasp, Captain Jones, with despatches from our minister in France. She was deficient in the necessary number of officers, and an order was forwarded from the Navy department for Mr. Biddle to join her as first Lieutenant. The Wasp proceeded to sea the 13th of October, 1812, and six days after fell in with six sail of British merchantmen, four of them mounting from sixteen to eighteen guns, and carrying from forty to fifty men each. It was immediately determined to attack the sloop of war under whose convoy they were.

On taking possession of the Frolic, Captain Jones placed her under the orders of Lieutenant Biddle, who was directed to rig jury masts, in the room of her main and foremasts, that had gone over very soon after the action, and to make the best of his way to a southern port of the United States. Before they separated, however, they had the misfortune to fall in with the Poica



ters of seventy-four guns, and as the situation of both vessels precluded every hope of escape or resistance, both were surrendered. The Captain and officers were carried to Bermuda, released on their parole after a short detention, and returned in safety to the United States.

On his being exchanged, Lieutenant Biddle was promoted to the rank of Master-commandant in the navy, and assumed the command of all the gun-boats that were stationed in the Delaware. He afterwards succeeded Captain Lawrence in the command of the *Hornet*, which vessel was at first intended to join the *Chesapeake* in a cruise against the British trade to the Canadas. On the capture of that ever unlucky vessel, whose destiny outweighed even the valour and the fortunes of a Lawrence, Captain Biddle, pursuant to subsequent orders, joined the squadron under Commodore Decatur, which was blockaded in the harbour of New-London, by a superior force of the enemy, until the conclusion of the war.

The squadron to which Captain Biddle belonged, remained in the harbour of New-London, in the hope of getting out to sea during the season of heavy gales; but when this had passed away, without affording any opportunity, the two frigates were moored as high up the river as possible, and dismantled; Commodore Decatur and his crew being transferred to the frigate *President*. When this arrangement had taken place, and the season favourable for the enemy to make an attack on those vessels, if they had such an intention, had passed away, Captain Biddle for the second time applied for, and obtained permission to attempt his escape in the *Hornet*. He succeeded in evading the British squadron, and joined a force at New-York, intended to cruise under

Commodore Decatur, in the *East-Indies*. That officer went to sea in the *President*, on the 14th of January, 1815, having the sloops of war *Peacock*, *Captain Warrington*, and *Hornet*, to convoy the store-ship, which was not in readiness to accompany them at that time. They did not get out until the 23d January, and separated a few days after, in consequence of the *Hornet* chasing a vessel, which, on being overhauled, proved a Portuguese. From this they proceeded singly for their first rendezvous, which was the Island of *Tristan d'Acunha*.

On the morning of the 23d of March, at the moment the *Hornet* was preparing to anchor off that island, a sail hove in sight, steering to the northward, with a fine breeze, and disappeared in a few minutes behind a projecting point of land. The *Hornet* immediately made sail, and on clearing the point, discovered the same vessel, bearing down before the wind, when Captain Biddle shortened sail, and hove to for her to come up with him. When the stranger got near, he began also to shorten sail, and took in his steering sails very clumsily for the purpose of practising a deception as it afterwards appeared. He also came down stern on, in order, as the officers afterwards acknowledged, that the *Hornet* should not see her broadside and attempt to escape. The engagement cannot be better described than in the words of Captain Biddle's official letter.

" At 1h. 40m. p. m. says he, being nearly within musket shot distance, she hauled her wind on the starboard tack, hoisted English colours, and fired a gun. We immediately luffed to, hoisted our ensign, and gave the enemy a broadside. The action being thus commenced, a quick and well directed fire was kept up from this ship, the

enemy gradually shifting nearer to us, when at 1h. 55m. he bore up apparently to run us on board. As soon as I perceived that he would certainly fall on board, I called the boarders, so as to be ready to repel any attempt to board us. At the instant every officer and man repaired to the quarter-deck, where the two vessels were coming in contact, and eagerly pressed me to permit them to board the enemy. But this I would not permit, as it was evident from the commencement of the action that our fire was greatly superior, both in quickness and effect. The enemy's bowsprit came in between our main and mizen rigging, on the starboard side, which afforded him an opportunity of boarding us if such had been his design, but no attempt was made. There was a considerable swell on, and as the sea lifted us ahead, the enemy's bowsprit carried away our mizen shrouds, stern davits, and spanker-boom; and he hung upon our larboard quarter. At this moment an officer who was afterwards recognised to be Mr. M'Donald, the first Lieutenant, and the then commanding officer, called out that they had surrendered. I directed the marines and musketry-men to cease firing, and while on the taffrail asking if they had surrendered, I received a wound in the neck. The enemy just then got clear of us, and his foremast and bowsprit being both gone, and perceiving us wearing to give him a fresh broadside, he again called out that he had surrendered. It was with difficulty I could restrain my crew from firing into him again, as he had certainly fired into us after having surrendered. From the firing of the first gun, to the last time the enemy cried out he had surrendered, it was exactly twenty-two minutes by the watch. She proved to be his Britannic majesty's brig

Penguin, mounting sixteen thirty-two pound carronades, two long twelves, and a twelve pound carronade on the top-gallant forecastle, with swivels on the capstan, and on the tops. She had a spare port forward so as to fight both her long guns of a side. She sailed from England in September last. She was shorter on deck than this ship by two feet, but had greater length of keel, greater breadth of beam, thicker sides and higher bulwarks than this ship, was in all respects a remarkably fine vessel of her class. The enemy acknowledge a complement of 132, twelve of them supernumerary marines from the Medway 74, reserved on board in consequence of her being ordered to cruise for the American privateer Young Wasp. They acknowledged also a loss of 14 killed and 28 wounded; but Mr. Mayo, who was in charge of the prize, assures me that the number of killed was certainly greater." The Hornet had one killed and eleven wounded. Among the killed of the Penguin was Captain Dickinson her commander, who is represented to have been a deserving and favourite officer. Not a single round shot struck the hull of the Hornet, but her sides were filled with grape, and her sails and rigging much cut. The Penguin was so severely cut up, had lost so many of her spars, and those remaining were so crippled, that it was determined not to attempt to send her in, and she was accordingly scuttled.

A few days after this action, Captain Biddle was joined by Captain Warrington, in the Peacock, accompanied by the ship Tom Bowline, and as the Hornet required but few repairs, she was soon ready again for service. Having waited the appointed time at Tristan D'Acunha, without being joined by the President, they converted the Tom Bowline into a cartel, despatched her to St.

Salvador with the prisoners, and on the 12th of April, set sail for the Cape of Good Hope. On the 27th they saw a strange sail, to which they gave chase, but did not approach near enough to ascertain what she was until the afternoon of the next day, when the Peacock, being the headmost vessel, made signal that she was a ship of the line, and an enemy. On this the Hornet hauled upon a wind, and the enemy commenced a chase, which lasted nearly thirty-six hours, during which time he fired several times into the Hornet, at not more than a distance of three quarters of a mile. On this occasion Captain Biddle displayed a degree of skill, perseverance and fortitude, highly honourable to the character of our navy.

The loss of her guns and various other articles of equipment, thrown overboard during this chase, rendered it necessary for the Hornet to return to some port; and as it would have been extremely hazardous to attempt getting home under such circumstances, Captain Biddle determined to make for St. Salvador. His intention was to refit at that place, and continue his cruise; but on his arrival there he learned the ratification of peace between the United States and Great Britain, and proceeded in consequence to New-York, where he arrived the 30th of July. During his absence he had been promoted to the rank of post-captain; and on his return the citizens of New-York gave him a public dinner, while those of Philadelphia, with their characteristic liberality, raised a subscription for a service of plate to be presented to him, in consideration of his public services and private worth. A court of inquiry was held at his desire, to investigate the cause of the return of the Hornet, as well as the circumstances which led to the loss of her armament, &c. and Captain Biddle was acquitted with

merited compliments to his skill, and persevering gallantry.

Captain Biddle is of a middle size, perhaps a little below it, and slender in his make. Yet his countenance and deportment bespeak great spirit, animation, activity, and intelligence.



MAJOR-GENERAL

HENRY DEARBORN

Is a descendant from one of the first settlers of New-Hampshire, who emigrated from the county of Devonshire, in England.

He received a medical education under the instruction of Doctor Hall Jackson, of Portsmouth, who was a distinguished surgeon in the revolutionary army, and justly celebrated as one of the most able physicians which New-England has produced. Dearborn was settled in practice of physic at Nottingham-Square in New-Hampshire, three years previous to the commencement of the *revolutionary war*, where, with several gentlemen of the neighbourhood, he employed his leisure hours in military exercises; being convinced that the time was rapidly approaching, when the liberties of his country must either be shamefully surrendered, or boldly defended at the point of the sword.

This band of associates were determined to be prepared, and equipped themselves for the last resort of freemen.

On the morning of the 20th of April, 1775, notice by an express was received of the affair of the preceding day at Lexington. He assembled with about sixty of the inhabitants of the town, and made a rapid movement for Cambridge, where

they arrived the next morning at sunrise—having marched a distance of fifty-five miles in less than twenty-four hours. After remaining several days, and there being no immediate occasion for their services, they returned. It being determined that a number of regiments should be immediately raised for the common defence, Dearborn was appointed Captain, in the first New-Hampshire regiment, under the command of Colonel John Stark. Such was his popularity and the confidence of the people in his bravery and conduct, that in ten days from the time he received his commission, he enlisted a full company, and joined the regiment at Medford on the fifteenth of May. Previous to the battle of Bunker-Hill, he was engaged in a skirmish on Hog-Island, whither he had been sent to prevent the cattle and other stock from being carried off by the British, and soon after took a part in an action with an armed vessel near Winnesimet Ferry.

On the morning of the glorious *seventeenth of June*, information was received that the British were preparing to come out from Boston, and storm the works which had been thrown up on Breed's-Hill the night before by the Americans. The regiment to which he was attached was immediately paraded, and marched from Mystic to Charlestown Neck.

Dearborn's company composed the flank guards of the regiment. They crossed the Neck under a galling fire from the British men of war, and the floating batteries, and having sustained some loss, arrived at Bunker's-Heights. The enemy were landing on the shore opposite Copp's-Hill, when Stark advanced and formed his regiment on the declivity of Breed's-Hill, in rear of a rail-fence, which ran from the redoubt, commanded by the gallant Colonel Prescott, to Mystic river. The

action soon commenced, and the Americans stood their ground until their ammunition was entirely expended. Dearborn was posted on the right of the regiment, and being armed with a fusée, fired regularly with his men.

In September he volunteered his services to join the expedition of Arnold up Kennebec river, and through the wilderness to Quebec. He was permitted to select a company from the New-Hampshire regiment for this arduous service. Thirty-two days were employed in traversing the hideous wilderness, between the settlements on the Kennebeck and the Chaudiere river, during the inclement months of November and December, in which every hardship and fatigue of which human nature is capable, was endured indiscriminately, by the officers and troops, and a large portion of them starved to death. On the highlands, between the Kennebeck and St. Lawrence, the remnant of provisions was divided among the companies, who were directed to make the best of their way in separate divisions to the settlements on the Chaudiere. The last fragment of food in most of the companies was soon consumed, and Dearborn was reduced to the extremity of dividing his *favourite dog* among his suffering men. When they reached the Chaudiere, from colds, extreme hardships and want of sustenance, his strength failed him, and he was unable to walk but a short distance, without wading into the water to invigorate and stimulate his limbs. With great difficulty he reached a poor hut on the Chaudiere, when he told his men he could accompany them no further, and animated them forward to a glorious discharge of their duty. His company left him with tears in their eyes, expecting to see him no more. Dearborn was here seized with a violent fever; during which his life was despaired of for ten days; without medicine,

and with scarcely the necessaries of common life. His fine constitution at last surmounted the disease, and as soon as he was able to travel he proceeded to Point Levi in a sleigh—crossed over to Wolfe's Cove, and made his unexpected appearance at the head of his company, a few days before the assault on Quebec. At four o'clock in the morning, on the thirty-first day of December, 1775, in a severe snow storm, and in a climate that vies with Norway in tempests and intense cold, the attack was commenced. Dearborn was attached to the corps under General Arnold, who was wounded early in the action and carried from the field. Lt. Col. Green succeeded in the command. They stormed the first barrier and entered the lower town. Montgomery had already bled on immortal ground, and his division having made a precipitate and most shameful retreat, as soon as their General fell, the corps under Green was exposed to a sanguinary but unavailing contest.

From the windows of the houses, which being constructed of stone, each was a castle, and from the tops of the parapets, a destructive fire was poured upon the assailants, which threatened inevitable destruction to every one who should appear in the streets. The American troops maintained this desperate warfare until at last they were reduced to the necessity of surrendering in small parties.

The whole corps led on by General Arnold, were killed or made prisoners of war. The officers were put into rigid confinement, and every day were tauntingly told, *that in the spring they would be sent to England, and hanged as rebels.*

In May 1776, Majors Meigs and Dearborn were permitted to return on their parole. They were sent round to Halifax in the frigate *Niger*, and treated with the usual contumely and hateur of

English officers. On their arrival at Halifax they were put on board another ship of war, and the commander instructed, by General Howe, to land them in some port in New-England. After the ship had cruised with them on board for upwards of thirty days, during which period they met with the grossest insults, they were put on shore in Penobscot bay, from whence they proceeded to Portland by land.

In the fore part of the following March, Dearborn was exchanged, and appointed a Major to the third New-Hampshire regiment, commanded by Colonel Alexander Scammel, and early in May arrived with the regiment at Ticonderoga.

On the 6th of July the post of Ticonderoga was abandoned on the approach of General Burgoyne's army. General St. Clair retreated with the main body of the troops, by land, through Vermont to Hudson river, near Saratoga, and soon after continued to retreat until the army had crossed the Mohawk river, near its junction with the Hudson, where considerable reinforcements were met, and General Gates assumed the command of the northern army.

Soon after the capture of the British detachment under Baum at Bennington, by General Stark; and the retreat of General St. Ledger from Fort Stanwix; General Gates advanced to meet the enemy, who was encamped near Saratoga. When the army arrived at Stillwater, a corps of light infantry was formed, by detachments from the line, consisting of five full companies, and the command given to Major Dearborn, with orders from General Gates to act in concert with Colonel Morgan's regiment of riflemen, which had joined the army a few days previous. A strong position was selected, called Bemis'-Heights, and immediately occupied by the American army. The rifle-

men and Dearborn's corps of light infantry, encamped in advance of the left of the main line. The British army had advanced from Saratoga, and encamped on the bank of the river, within three miles of General Gates' position.

On the morning of the 19th of September, the advanced pickets announced, that the right wing of the British army was in motion, when Morgan and Dearborn, who commanded separate corps, received orders from General Arnold to make a forward movement, to check the approaching column. These orders were promptly obeyed, and the advanced guard, consisting of *tories* and other irregulars, was soon met and attacked with spirit, in which conflict they killed and wounded a considerable number of the enemy, and made twenty-two prisoners. The action soon after became general, and continued until the dusk of the evening, on the same ground on which it commenced; neither party having retreated more than twenty or thirty rods, and that alternately, so that the dead of both armies were mingled together.

Dearborn, with his light corps, covered the left of the main line, while Morgan covered the right. The loss was severe on both sides, and especially in the New-Hampshire line. Lieutenant-Colonels Adams and Colburn being killed, Dearborn was promoted to a Lieutenant-Colonel, and was at that time in the twenty-seventh year of his age. As his light corps was constantly employed in reconnoitring, frequent actions occurred between the pickets and advanced parties of the enemy.

In the campaign of 1778, Dearborn served with the main army, and in the battle of Monmouth, the spirited conduct of Cilley's detached regiment, of which Dearborn was Lieutenant-Colonel, attracted particularly the attention of the Commander-in-chief.

After Lee had made a precipitate and unexpected retreat, Washington, among other measures which he took to check the advance of the British, ordered Cilley's regiment to attack a body of troops which were passing through an orchard on the right wing of the enemy.

The regiment advanced under a heavy fire, with a rapid step and shouldered arms. The enemy filed off and formed on the edge of a morass. The Americans wheeled to the right, received their second fire, with shouldered arms, marched up within eight rods, dressed, gave a full fire and charged bayonet. The British having sustained considerable loss, fled with precipitation across the morass, where they were protected by the main body of the enemy.

Colonel Dearborn was then despatched to the Commander-in-chief to ask what further service was required; when he approached, Washington enquired, with evident pleasure at their gallant conduct, "*what troops are those?*" "Full-blooded Yankees from New-Hampshire, Sir," replied Dearborn. Washington expressed his approbation in explicit terms, and directed that they should fall back and refresh themselves, as the heat was very oppressive and the troops much fatigued.

In the general orders of the next day, Washington bestowed the highest commendation on the brilliant exploit of the regiment.

In 1779, Dearborn accompanied General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians, and had an active share in the action of the 29th of August with the united forces of *Tories* and *Indians* at New-Town. During the campaign of 1780, he was with the main army in Jersey.

In 1781 he was appointed Deputy Quarter-Master General, with the rank of Colonel, and served in that capacity with Washington's army

in Virginia. He was at the siege of Yorktown, and the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army. Colonel Scammel being killed during the siege, Dearborn succeeded to the command of the first New-Hampshire regiment, and was ordered to the frontier garrison at Saratoga during the campaign of 1782. In November he joined the army at New-burgh.

After the American Independence was secured, and acknowledged by the King of Great Britain, Colonel Dearborn, with his companions in arms, who had survived the fatigues, hardships and dangers of the war, returned to the pursuits of private life.

In June, 1784, he removed from New-Hampshire to Kennebeck, in the District of Maine.—In 1787, he was elected Brigadier-General of the militia, and soon after appointed a Major-General. President Washington appointed him Marshal for the District of Maine in the year 1789. He was twice elected to represent the District of Kennebeck in the Congress of the United States.

On the accession of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency, he was appointed Secretary of War, and continued in that office until March 1809, when he resigned and was appointed Collector for Boston, and in February 1812, he received a commission as senior Major-General in the army of the United States.

The shameful surrender of General Hull at Detroit, and subsequent unfortunate transactions on the Niagara at Queenstown Heights, frustrated the plans of the campaign of 1812. Notwithstanding these severe checks, General Dearborn did not relax in activity; for as soon as he had ordered his army into winter-quarters at Plattsburgh and Burlington, he was unremittedly employed in recruiting the army, and making pre-

parations for opening the campaign early in the following spring.

Previous to the General's departure from Albany in the month of February, 1813, he had ordered Generals Lewis and Boyd to the Niagara frontier, directing the former to prepare boats and scows, erect batteries, and make every necessary arrangement for an attack and descent on Fort George. General Dearborn, after giving these orders, repaired to Utica and Whites-town, made there arrangements for the transportation of troops down the Oswego to Sackett's Harbour, and gave the necessary directions relative to all the military stores for the ensuing campaign. These accomplished, he proceeded to Sackett's Harbour, agreeably to a plan of operations which had been submitted to the consideration of the Secretary of War, and which was left to the discretion of Major-General Dearborn to carry into effect.

The projected plan was to capture and destroy Little York; this would give Commodore Chauncey the command of the lake, render it impossible to furnish their troops and Indians with stores, and cut off all communications between Kingston and Malden.

The plan was disclosed at the harbour, only to Commodore Chauncey and General Pike. General Lewis, then at the Niagara, was also advised of the movement, and ordered to be in readiness for an immediate attack on Fort George. After the capture of York, the troops were to be transported to Niagara, and make an *instant* attack on Fort George. This being effected, the army was to have been transported back to Sackett's Harbour; from whence, with an additional number of troops collecting by previous orders, they were to make an attack on Kingston in its rear; while

the fleet would batter the town, fortifications, and the fleet in front.

With this system of operations in view, General Dearborn sailed with 1600 men, as soon as the ice permitted the fleet to leave the harbour. York was taken 27th April, with all the stores of the British army; a ship of thirty guns burnt, and the Duke of Gloucester, of fourteen guns, made a prize. The Earl of Moira had previously sailed for Kingston.

Upon the success of the first part of the expedition, General Dearborn sent an express to inform General Lewis what he had done, and to notify him of his intended arrival with the army at Fort Niagara, at which post the General arrived a few days after; when he learnt that General Lewis was at Judge Porter's, opposite Niagara falls, fourteen miles from his troops. Upon further inquiry, to the disappointment and mortification of General Dearborn, it was further learnt, that no step had been taken by General Lewis to prepare for the contemplated attack. The batteries were not even commenced; the boats necessary to make the descent were not furnished. General Dearborn had felt a previous attachment for General Lewis, and out of respect to him, transmitted a letter to the Secretary of War, in which the violent storms were assigned a public reason for the delay of the movement, and postponement of the intended attack; but lest improper advantage should be taken of this circumstance, to the prejudice of General Dearborn, (which afterwards proved to be the case,) another letter was transmitted, which particularly detailed the *real* causes of the delay.

The General thus circumstanced, knowing the enemy would be reinforced before the boats to be built would be in readiness to pass over the army,

desired Commodore Chauncey to return to Sackett's Harbour, and in the interim bring up General Chandler's brigade. During this period, five batteries were erected above Fort Niagara, and the boats which had been commenced were ordered to be finished with all expedition, and brought round to Four Mile Creek; the last was effected, on the river under the fire of five of the enemy's batteries, without any loss.

Immediately on the return of the fleet with General Chandler's brigade, the General issued an order which never has been published, "that on the next day the troops should breakfast at two o'clock, strike tents at three, and embark at four o'clock." The situation and position of the country had been previously obtained by spies, the place of landing designated, and the plan of attack delineated; which was submitted to Generals Lewis, Chandler, Winder and Boyd, and met their full approbation.

Excessive fatigues, and frequent exposures to storms, had produced a violent fever, which ten days previous to the attack on Fort George confined General Dearborn to his bed. The morning after the general order was announced for the attack, General Lewis called on him and said, it would be impossible for the enemy to be embarked. General Dearborn then having some suspicions of the *military* character and *energy* of General Lewis, replied the attack should be made as ordered; that he was prepared, and no further delay would be allowed.

The morning of the attack General Dearborn was mounted on his horse, by assistance, before four o'clock, in opposition to the opinion of his physicians, and against the remonstrances of the officers of the staff. He rode to the place of embarkation; saw all the troops on board the fleet.

and boats ; General Lewis, who had the immediate command, now *first made his appearance*, and expressed his great astonishment at the unexpected rapidity with which this movement had been made. This exertion had so exhausted General Dearborn, that he was taken from his horse, led to a boat, and conveyed on board the Madison. On his way to Four Mile Creek, Dr. Mann, Hospital Surgeon of the army, meeting General Dearborn, said to him, "I apprehend you do not intend to embark with the army."—The General replied, "*I apprehend nothing, sir ; I go into battle, or perish in the attempt.*"

From the first dawn of day, and while the army was embarking, a most tremendous fire of hot shot and shells from Fort Niagara and the new erected batteries, was opening on Fort George, and continued until the block-houses, barracks and stores were enwrapped in flames, and the guns silenced.

General Dearborn, from his great exertions, added to his ill state of health, was unable to support himself more than fifteen or twenty minutes on his feet at a time : but he was nevertheless frequently up, watching these interesting movements. The troops had all landed, when General Lewis, (*who ought to have preceded the reserve*) still remained on board. His delay astonished General Dearborn, who, exercising his usual delicacy with him, merely suggested to him, whether he ought not to land, and then retired. Within twenty minutes, General Dearborn again came on deck, and finding General Lewis still on board, *ordered* him to land. The enemy now had fallen back between the village of Newark and Fort George. After General Lewis had landed, one hour and a half had passed away, and four thousand men formed in order of battle with a fine train of artillery, were seen

standing still, while the enemy, not more than twelve hundred in number, was manœuvring for a retreat. At this moment, General Dearborn forgot his debility, and insisted on being carried on shore; but by the strong solicitations of those about him, was prevailed upon to remain on board; and in agony at the delay, sent his Deputy-Adjutant-General, Beebe, to General Lewis, with orders "to move instantly, surround the enemy, and cut them up." General Lewis, even after this order, waited an hour before Generals Boyd, Chandler and Scott, with all their arguments, could induce him to advance, and then only to the south side of Newark, perhaps three fourths of a mile from his first position, *where the line was again formed, and continued, until the enemy had retreated in the rear of Fort George*, and took the route to Queenstown Heights. Colonel Scott, however, pursued the retreating broken army without orders three miles, and would not desist in his pursuit, until four *aids-de-camp* of General Lewis had been despatched to order his return. Late in the day, the ship Madison moved up the Niagara river in front of Fort George, where General Dearborn was taken on shore and carried to his quarters much exhausted. Meeting with General Lewis he expressed his disapprobation of his conduct, and ordered him to put the army in pursuit of the enemy at five o'clock in the morning. Instead of which, he did not move until five o'clock in the afternoon. Upon his arrival at Queenstown Heights, he learnt the enemy had made a rapid movement towards the head of Lake Ontario, a few hours previous, by the Beaver Dam, and sent back a report to this effect.

On the morning of the 15th July there was considerable agitation in camp in consequence of a report that Gen. Dearborn had received orders to

retire from the command of the army at Fort George. This report, on enquiry, was found to be well grounded, and Gen. Boyd and all the field officers immediately assembled and addressed to the senior General warm and earnest solicitations for him to remain in command ; to which he made a suitable reply.

At one o'clock, the officers repaired to head quarters, to take leave of their chief, who had directed their successful efforts in retrieving the honour of the American arms, and who had been present with them in scenes of privation and danger.

There was no general ever gave a *firmer countenance* to an army in the hour of danger than Gen. Dearborn. Disdaining to court popularity, he had acquired the confidence of every officer, as fully appears by their unsolicited expressions of it.

As soon as he reached Utica, he sent a letter to the President of the United States, respecting his sudden dismissal.

Notwithstanding General Dearborn had requested not to be ordered on duty until his military conduct had been investigated by a competent military tribunal, a different course was pursued by the President.

General Dearborn thought it very extraordinary, that he should be called into service, before the subject of his removal from Fort George had been investigated.

While in Albany during the Winter of 1813—14, finding that his request had not been granted, he wrote a letter to the Secretary of War, dated Albany, January 2, 1814.

Notwithstanding the unceasing efforts of General Dearborn to obtain a hearing, before a court of enquiry, that justice was not done him.



